

# TURNING THE CORNER

Reclaiming Your Community from the  
Negative Effects of Meth and other Drugs

## A Neighborhood Intervention Guide



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Tania Capin • Dr. Dennis Embry • Marie Light  
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## Executive Summary

Mention the word “intervention,” and most people visualize a critical meeting of friends and family members confronting a loved one suffering from a serious addiction. If such a behavior changing event is successful with some individuals, could it, in effect, be applied scientifically to a neighborhood?

Every neighborhood is comprised of a social fabric representing the vitality and involvement of the residents in each community. While some are unraveled, torn at the seams and in serious need of restoration, others possess a self-sustaining vibrancy resulting from intrinsic physical qualities such as safe well-maintained streets, access to public spaces and aesthetically pleasing architecture.<sup>1</sup> These amenities play a pivotal role in contributing to the influx of new residents, businesses and neighborhood resources.

From April 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007, the Meth Free Alliance embarked upon a collaborative project with the Tucson Neighbors Building Community in Tucson, Arizona in a community-based, mobilization controlled experiment to prevent, intervene on and treat various impacts of methamphetamine abuse. This neighborhood had descended from a respectable, middle-class enclave into a meth-infested hotbed of drug-related activity, and permanent residents slowly withdrew to the safety of their homes, believing nothing could be done to turn their neighborhoods around. In actuality, this belief couldn't have been further from the truth.

The Meth Free Alliance has published a Neighborhood Implementation Guide to promote that it is, indeed, possible to reverse the impact of meth and other illicit drugs in your community, and to share with others how to sustain those efforts over time. *Turning the Corner; Reclaiming Your Community from the Negative Effects of Meth and Other Drugs* is the result of countless hours of collective input by the Meth Free Alliance Steering Committee, whose membership encompasses the professional fields of behavioral health, education, communications, law enforcement, faith-based initiatives, and environmental sciences.

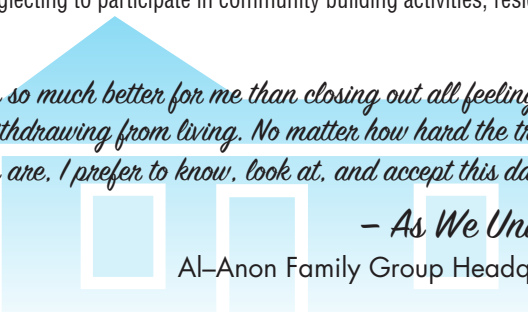
The underlying premise of performing a neighborhood intervention is quite simple in principle. Crime, especially crime associated with meth trafficking and abuse, affects every resident of a neighborhood either directly through burglary, drive-by shootings, prostitution, mail theft, homicides, auto theft, child abuse and neglect, or indirectly through commercial blight or dis-investment, deteriorating or abandoned housing units and graffiti. The presence of drug dealing within a neighborhood impacts homeowners by devaluing their largest asset—their home—which robs them of equity and future security. Landlords have trouble attracting responsible renters to an impacted area, resulting in lower application standards or not screening prospective tenants. Ultimately this leads the landlord to not maintaining the property.<sup>2</sup> Meth becomes everyone's problem, whether they realize it or not.

<sup>1</sup> Sorin A. Matei, “Good” and “bad” neighborhoods: perceptions and reality. A report prepared for the Kettering Foundation. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Horowitz, Carl F., An empowerment strategy for eliminating neighborhood crime. The Heritage Foundation, 1991. Backgrounder #814.

By sending a clear message that meth and other illegal substance abuse related crimes will not be tolerated in the neighborhood, residents can begin to take back the quality of life that was once theirs. When meth becomes everyone's problem, a neighborhood intervention requires everyone living within the neighborhood's boundaries to become involved, helping to address addiction issues related to meth use and the corresponding social impacts.

A champion is required to lead the neighborhood down the path to recovery. The leader must first enlist the help of the neighborhood by getting its residents to admit that their community has a problem with meth, and that a plan of action can be created to remedy it. This principle is best seen in action within 12-Step programs designed for individuals. When tempted to retreat indoors, avoiding neighbors and neglecting to participate in community building activities, residents can expect that nothing will change.



*"Awareness is so much better for me than closing out all feelings, shutting out people, withdrawing from living. No matter how hard the truth is or what the facts are, I prefer to know, look at, and accept this day."*

*– As We Understood...*

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

Acknowledging that a neighborhood has a problem with drug abuse is a huge first step leading to the question "Now what?" It is important to consider that meth users or their family members need help accessing treatment so they know where to go to detox and address their addiction. By getting meth addicts help for their addiction, the neighborhood only stands to benefit by reducing the volume of crimes committed, children neglected or abused, and other negative effects.

Drug addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences; it is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain by altering its structure and how it works. Since these brain changes can be long lasting, it can lead to the harmful behaviors seen in people who abuse drugs.<sup>3</sup>

When faced with the impacts of drug addiction in your neighborhood, some community members may be understandably upset about the behavior of people addicted to meth and other drugs, and how these effects manifest themselves. This is why law enforcement is such an important partner in the neighborhood intervention process, since they will play a critical role in helping to resolve large-scale drug supply issues. By engaging in a two-pronged approach – criminal sentences for drug dealers/traffickers, and recovery for addicted individuals – greater progress is achieved in permanently resolving drug-related crimes. Treatment professionals will also prove to be key allies in addiction resolution, and people in recovery should also be invited to the table. This strategy avoids vilifying the addict who seeks to make a life change benefiting his or herself and their respective community.

The knowledge that meth addiction has been successfully treated in others can instill hope in those affected. By helping to identify specific community resources for recovery, the road to healing for many addicts may seem far less daunting.

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<sup>3</sup> NIDA, 2008. Drugs, Brains & Behavior: The Science of Addiction, National Institute of Health, NIH Pub. No. 07–5605. 30p. Retrieved on April 15, 2008 from NIDA website <http://www.drugabuse.gov/scienceofaddiction/>.



Many faith-based organizations work directly with people struggling to overcome addictions or do specific community work to help encourage people to get treatment. A few phone calls to area churches, synagogues, mosques and other faith-based organizations will yield a wealth of resources for your Neighborhood Intervention Project. Churches can also be called upon to mobilize parishioners or requested to incorporate anti-meth messages into their weekly sermons.

It is only when neighborhood members band together and identify partners with whom to align will outcomes change and progress will become achievable. Meth and its corresponding impacts create complex problems that go beyond government boundaries in regards to monetary resources above and beyond law enforcement efforts. Partnering with the business, academic, faith-based and behavioral health communities is critical to help identify other potential revenue streams, in-kind donations, pro-bono assistance and access to research. Since your neighborhood will require an influx of help that government can't typically provide, the Neighborhood Intervention Project's goals should incorporate strategies that address this fact in efforts to help lower the line of endemic crime related to methamphetamine in other ways. Residents will learn how to connect the dots from the problem at hand to a workable solution as they progress through the list of defined tasks that are part of the overall plan.

Faced with the ability to create positive and measurable effects within their neighborhood, Tucson Neighbors Building Community (TNBC) residents engaged in capacity building exercises which, in turn, led them down the path of self-reliance and resulted in the formation of over 25 public and private partnerships. Several of these partnerships involved a large-scale push to identify over 280 property owners who might not have been aware that drugs were being manufactured or sold from their rental properties. A letter outlining criteria from the Tucson Police Department's Crime-Free Housing program was mailed to all landlords and also informed them that Crime-Free Housing classes were available for them to take for free. The Pima County Attorney's Office coached the group and helped them write phone scripts for follow-up phone calls to the landlords. TNBC also learned to identify addresses where known meth labs had been in operation and subsequently disclosed these locations on the Arizona Board of Technical Registrations' web site.

Armed with information that could be easily counted, a quality of life survey, interaction with local leadership, and a collection of field data through the use of drug swipe technology on public surfaces throughout the neighborhood, the residents were then able to identify exactly how meth was impacting each one of them. As the plan gathered momentum, three other adjoining neighborhoods expressed interest in joining TNBC efforts, Tucson Unified School District became involved through meth education programs in area schools, and a city-wide social marketing campaign ran concurrently with the Neighborhood Intervention Project.

This year-long project involving two neighborhoods, as well as the public and private sectors paid off handsomely. The number of drug crimes was reduced 4% and drug related crimes within Oak Flower and Dodge Flower neighborhood boundaries **decreased an astonishing 60%**. The project restored a renewed sense of hope and achievement for all stakeholders involved.

*Turning the Corner* is a synopsis of evidence-based practices that any neighborhood can adopt and apply. Ultimately, we all bear some responsibility in contributing to the quality of life within our neighborhoods, and recovery of our community assets is possible with coordinated planning and collaborative efforts.

# I. Introduction

This Neighborhood Intervention Guide is the result of a scientifically designed, community-based mobilization process to prevent and treat the impacts of methamphetamine abuse impacting neighborhoods. The Guide’s underlying goal is to show the neighborhood-level effects of mobilization across a target area using law enforcement interventions, complimented by a variety of low-cost, proven prevention, intervention and treatment protocols to accomplish the following:

- Reducing meth-related crime
- Improving your neighborhood's quality of life
- Increasing your neighborhood's self-reliance to sustain efforts

The underlying principle of the plan builds upon the strengths of people residing in your neighborhood to help implement meaningful interventions. Neighborhood members will identify their preferred interventions and work as team members with law enforcement, faith-based organizations, social service organizations, businesses, and community educators. These groups will initially provide strong support, then progressively reduce the level of support as your neighborhood group accomplishes more and witnesses the benefits of efforts to take back the neighborhood over the course of one year. Program-related data collected throughout the neighborhood will be used to evaluate the community’s readiness for interventions as well as to measure progress of identified goals.

# II. Principles of Neighborhood-Based Interventions

Recreational use of methamphetamine emerged in the 1950s and reached epidemic proportions by the end of the millennium<sup>4</sup>. Many neighborhoods across the nation are currently facing unprecedented levels of crime<sup>5</sup> as well as deteriorating communities<sup>6</sup>, negative environmental impacts<sup>7</sup>, and high health care needs in direct relation to meth use. The negative impacts from meth are more severe than other illicit drugs (Table 1).

**Table 1. Why Meth Is Different Than Other Drugs**

## Impacts to the Body of the Meth User

- Damage to the nervous system<sup>8</sup>, impairing production of dopamine, motor control, memory and ability to recognize facial expressions
- Continued use results in major organ failure, dental decay, weight loss, and formication (the sensation of bugs crawling beneath the skin)
- Contraction of sexually transmitted diseases

<sup>4</sup> Patricia Case, 2005. The History of Methamphetamine: An Epidemic in Context, Keynote Address to Science & Response: 2005, 1st National Conference in Methamphetamine, HIV, and Hepatitis, August 19–20, Salt Lake City.

<sup>5</sup> Sullivan, B. March 10, 2004. The meth connection to identify theft, Retrieved on April 10, 2008 from MSNBC website <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4460349/>.

<sup>6</sup> City of Tucson, 2002. Indicators of Neighborhood Stress, Measures of Need and Dependency From Census 2000 For Tucson Block Groups, Tucson, Arizona.

<sup>7</sup> Goddard, T. 2008. Stop Methamphetamine Drug Abuse, Retrieved on April 10, 2008 from Arizona Attorney General website <http://www.azag.gov/StopMeth/AboutMeth.html>

<sup>8</sup> National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center, 1999. Epidemiology and Treatment of Methamphetamine Abuse in California: A Regional Report, pp 11–15.

- Capacity for recovery decreases as the meth attacks the learning centers of the brain, making it difficult to make the necessary changes to behavior

## **Impacts to Family, Friends and Associates of the Meth User**

- Crime increases as the addiction in the meth user progresses
  - Petty theft, fraud, burglary and auto theft are used to buy drugs
  - Paranoia and violence develop as the nervous system is damaged<sup>9</sup>
- Child abuse results from neglect of a child's needs and exposure to toxins from cooking meth

## **Impacts to the Community Where the Meth User Lives and Works**

- Invisible toxins are found in the environment where meth is cooked, including heavy metals, corrosives, explosives and flammable materials
- Long periods of aftercare overwhelm treatment and recovery providers
- Organ failure, neural damage and dental damage overwhelm the health care system
- Work forces decline in productivity due to absenteeism and poor performance on the job

Violent acts by a person who uses meth or other drugs to cope with untreated trauma from the past are due to a change in physiology from a natural state of relaxed alertness to either hyper vigilance or immobilization caused by overwhelming fear<sup>10</sup>.

The drug's low cost and ease of production have both contributed to its rapid spread. Since meth is easily available and affordable in many communities, these factors make the drug attractive to young and old alike. The severity of the meth problem is indicative that the additional actions of drug rehabilitation and incarceration are necessary. Community-based projects have the potential to access a wide range of creative minds and attract a large number of volunteers who can help contribute toward positive outcomes.

Three principles will serve to guide collaborative efforts and include:

1. Empowering capable members of the community instead of rescuing (or enabling) victims of meth
2. Collaborating with stakeholders instead of competing with other non-profits for scarce resources
3. Measuring progress with evidence instead of defining outcomes from subjective observations

<sup>9</sup> Freese, T.E., 2006. Methamphetamine, 4TC Collaborative Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

<sup>10</sup> Levine, P.A., 1997. *Waking the Tiger, Healing Trauma*, North Atlantic Books, pp.95–102.

### III. Getting Started

Neighborhoods can address problems linked to methamphetamine by helping those struggling with addiction. This can be accomplished by including members of the community who are capacity builders and can provide services, money or manpower to assist in your Neighborhood Intervention Project. By encouraging an atmosphere of partnership and collaboration, and inviting various individuals and businesses to the table who fulfill pre-identified needs, neighbors will be able to leverage these community assets to the benefit of the entire community. Appendix A provides answers to commonly asked questions. Appendix B lists best practices for community projects.

Now – it's time to get to work!

*"If we don't change direction soon,  
we'll end up where we started."*

– Professor Irwin Corey

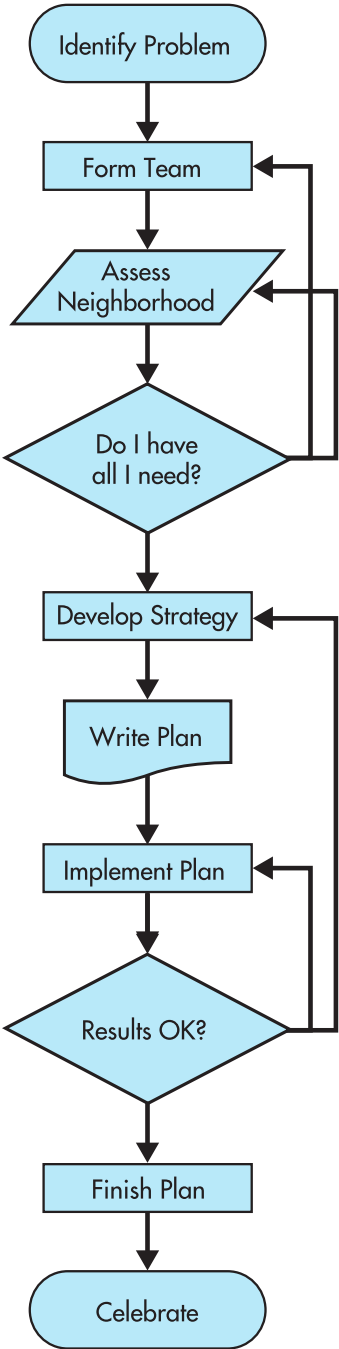
#### Step 1 – Determining the Severity of your Neighborhood's Meth Problem

In order to create a "recipe for action" for your neighborhood, your team will first need to understand just exactly how meth is negatively affecting your neighborhood.

An appropriate analogy of meth's far-reaching impacts can be best understood in the form of an octopus's tentacles. What enables the drug to penetrate your neighborhood with its many arms is its strength and ability to impact public safety, health, economic vitality, child abuse and neglect, increased domestic violence among partners of users, while elevating the risk of environmental hazards from its manufacturing.

Substance abuse is an equal opportunity destroyer that impacts society on many levels. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) indicates that America's primary medical problems can be directly linked to drug abuse, and many of our top social problems are also related as well. As your neighborhood embarks upon its mission to reduce meth's toll, your project team will identify and measure exactly how meth damages the community by assessing a host

Figure 1. Neighborhood Intervention Project Steps



of indicators ranging from health, education, economic and crime statistics. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), there are four primary areas impacted by substance abuse within a community; medical, social, economic and criminal justice<sup>11</sup>. These four sectors constitute the majority of the indicators that your neighborhood will measure when compiling data to enter into your Neighborhood Readiness Assessment Worksheet from Appendix D.

Appendix C (Resources to Contact) can provide you with a number of resources for data and contact information. Appendix D will help you streamline your data collection. Collaborating with an academic professional in your community can help make the process of gathering the statistics both easier and faster for your group.

When first assessing the nature of the meth problem in your neighborhood, find out how others in your community have chosen to address the issue. Local, state and federal agencies can also provide data and action strategies that address reducing the negative effects of substance abuse (Table 2).

**Step 2 – Forming a Team**

The cornerstone of your neighborhood effort begins with a newly created team. This integral group of people will serve as a guiding force for all facets of the Neighborhood Intervention Project. Your city may or may not already have an anti-meth coalition formed; if so, this knowledgeable group of people can serve as a guiding force for all aspects of the Neighborhood Intervention Project. This coalition will also be able to identify behavioral health resources and groups who may be instrumental in assisting the project, and appropriate government support can be sought from elected officials as well.

If no such anti-meth coalition exists in your geographic area, the formation of your Neighborhood Intervention Group will serve as a surrogate coalition of sorts. In looking outside of your neighborhood for volunteers to assist with your Neighborhood Intervention Project, keep in mind that there are professionals from all walks of life who may be willing to lend their expertise, business connections and innovative ideas on a no-charge basis to assist with your Neighborhood Intervention Project. Don't be shy when reaching out to these professionals – more than likely, they'll be intrigued by the nature of the project and will want to become involved. The more comprehensive your list of

**Table 2. Data Sources for Neighborhood Statistics**

Census data
Crime rates
Number of offenders living in area
Department of Economic Security data
Emergency Room admissions (drug-related), by zip codes
Data related to number of ambulance transports of drug users
Quality of life surveys
City or county economic data
Pharmacy cash sales
City/county zone restrictions
Abatement data
Number of people on probation in the area
Number of behavioral health clinics
Rental properties by Townships
School data
Impacted employers
Number of civic centers
Number of faith-based institutions

<sup>11</sup> NIDA, 2008. Ibid.. p. 2.

business and government connections, the greater your opportunities will be to leverage these valuable resources to the neighborhood's benefit. Poll your group to find out who knows someone who might be willing to do pro-bono work in the identified fields (Table 3).

Partnering with education groups and other law enforcement agencies such as your local office of the Drug Enforcement Administration will give your Neighborhood Intervention Project depth of reach and access to additional resources. Your team will be able to determine which groups should be invited to the table by assessing your neighborhood's strengths and weaknesses.

**Table 3. Groups to Consult for Areas of Expertise, Potential Contributions and Professional Fields**

Area of Expertise:	Potential Contributions:	Professional Fields:
Data and Research	Provide recommendations on strategy and evaluation materials	University professors, other academics
Legislative	Encourage and support lawmakers to address meth at the legislative level	Attorneys
Environmental	Identify and strategize responses to health hazards related to meth use and manufacturing	Scientists
Prevention, Treatment and Recovery	Develop treatment messages and increase awareness and availability of treatment services	Drug abuse prevention counselors, treatment and recovery practitioners
Law Enforcement	Revise penalties and improve treatment coordination in all jurisdictions	Law enforcement personnel
Public Information	Develop awareness campaigns and media contacts	Public Relations firms
Community	Promote awareness of meth and its impacts on individuals, businesses and the community	Public officials, business owners
Faith-based	Engage, educate and train the faith-based community with skills to address meth issues and disseminate knowledge to new communities	Civic leaders
Fund Development	Seek and secure funding to provide self-sufficiency for activities	Business professionals
Steering Committee	Provide oversight for accomplishing specific tasks	Various community members

### Step 3 – Assessing Your Neighborhood

A comprehensive list of criteria has been developed for your neighborhood to assess meth’s overall impact and to provide a baseline of data to measure your project’s success. The Neighborhood Readiness Assessment Worksheet (Appendix D) highlights the type of data your group can collect to create an existing snapshot or overview of your neighborhood, and where to obtain the necessary information. Several weaknesses uncovered in your assessment are not a cause for alarm. By identifying them now, this exercise will serve to determine which outside resources to approach to help fill in the gaps. Criteria will vary from neighborhood to neighborhood and will be determined by unique qualities, resources, and needs. Table 2 provides a list of data sources for neighborhood statistics.

At this point of the process, it’s time to approach law enforcement and engage them in your Neighborhood Intervention Project. Schedule a meeting with the commander of your neighborhood’s patrol division to discuss your ideas for an intervention plan and ask for their support. Provide an opportunity for on-going dialogue to ensure they will be able to contribute to the program with activities that will support the neighborhood beyond traditional law enforcement roles. Appendix E provides suggestions for support from your police department contact with a more in-depth look at what your neighborhood might need.

#### Neighborhood Note

Neighborhoods can hire private security guards (paid or volunteer) to work in tandem with residents and police. HUD allows for payment of such guards from Federal Drug Elimination Act funds and the Public Housing operating budget.

*Source: Empowerment Strategies to Eliminate Neighborhood Crime*

### Step 4 – Developing a Strategy

Your Neighborhood Intervention Project will be based upon identified practices to change existing neighborhood dynamics as they relate to drug-related activity, crime and other social problems. These activities can be woven together to achieve the following goals:

1. Activating a community-based response to stop methamphetamine abuse, manufacture and related criminal activities in your neighborhood
2. Implementing and sustaining a coordinated community response across the faith-based, law enforcement and treatment fields to prevent, intervene on and treat methamphetamine and related problems.

Some prevention strategies that could be useful in your neighborhood mobilization (Appendix O) can include the following:

1. Promote and use positive child development in neighborhood schools
2. Teach children how to choose behaviors that improve aggressive or disruptive classroom behavior and prevent later criminal behavior through reduced incidents of ADHD, oppositional defiance, conduct disorders, and early use of tobacco and/or alcohol. An excellent example of this method incorporates playing the Good Behavior Game in the classroom<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>12</sup> Embry, D.E., 2002. *The Good Behavior Game: A Best Practice Candidate as Universal Behavioral Vaccine*. Clinical Child & Family Psychology Review, 5(4): p.273-297.



3. Promote strategies among children, youth or adults with a genetic predisposition for drug use that prevent and help reduce current drug use. One example is the Simple Gifts<sup>13</sup> program that can enhance academic success in schools, in community settings such as churches or youth venues, or in therapeutic settings.
4. Encourage the consumption of Omega 3 fish oil capsules, which stabilize moods and reduce symptoms of antisocial behavior, violence, borderline personality disorders, bipolar disorder, and cardiovascular crises.
5. Use community reinforcement and family training models to get people into treatment and stay clean. Extensive scientific trials show that a community reinforcement and family training approach to aid in recovery are powerful ways to get people into and engaged in treatment. These practices can be learned by community members, including employers, significant others, parents, and probation or parole officers with or without the help of drug courts.

In addition to the preventive actions identified above, a number of other neighborhood interventions can be implemented to address the existing meth problem:

1. Identify the drug dealers in your neighborhood and apply tougher consequences for their harmful activities. Remove the individuals fueling the drug-addiction cycle to help lower crime rates.
2. Educate neighborhood residents how to identify and report specific suspects (height, age, sex, hair color, skin color, color of shirt, color and type of clothing below waist, type and color of shoes, characteristic movements or behaviors) to assist law enforcement in identifying suspicious individuals in the area.
3. Identify treatment resources and facilitate opportunities for entering treatment and recovery for meth addicts.
4. Educate teens, families, and adults about the nature of methamphetamine as well as the risks and harms associated with meth production and use. Understand that the range of impacts can empower individuals as they make informed decisions.
5. Educate the public how to recognize a meth lab and how properties need to be decontaminated before they can be occupied safely.
6. Train first responders (police officers, fire fighters and paramedics) how to enter and minimize exposure to toxic chemicals in meth labs.
7. Improve the exterior appearances of owner-occupied and rental properties through pruning, planting, trash removal, and making minor repairs to create beauty in the neighborhood. These events are also opportunities for people to meet and get to know each other. Other activities improving the look and feel of the neighborhood can contribute to a sense of pride and ownership that may have been lost along the way.
8. Encourage landlords to screen and monitor potential tenants.
9. Increase communication between neighborhood members through meetings, phone trees, and social events. Creating community cohesion is necessary while addressing some of the tougher issues. The function is to exchange information and provide support to one another.

<sup>13</sup> Embry, D.E., 2004. *Community Based Prevention Using Simple Low-Cost, Evidence-Based Kernels and Behavior Vaccines*. Journal of Community Psychology, 32(5): p.575.

10. Reduce access to pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine<sup>14</sup>, the essential ingredients for producing methamphetamine. Limit availability by placing supplies behind locked counters and limit dispensed amounts to 9 grams per month, which is considered a standard dose for decongestant needs.
11. Support legislation limiting access to ingredients, increasing penalties for drug dealing and increasing access to treatment programs for addicted community members.

After having assessed your neighborhood's symptoms of meth and discussing the kinds of interventions your group would like to implement, review the Logic Model in Appendix F to develop a strategic plan. The Logic Model was originally used by the Meth Free Alliance to organize its task forces by community sector with specific activities that were carried out by the respective task force members. Its primary goal is to help your Neighborhood Intervention Group develop a strategic plan that involves all group members. Think of this activity as a cross-pollination process, with neighborhood members interacting collaboratively in different areas of focus, such as fund raising or data and research.

If your neighborhood is fortunate enough to have a number of faith-based organizations within its boundaries, activities could include utilizing parishioners to assist with intervention efforts, asking clergy to deliver powerful anti-drug messages to their congregations or working with meth affected newborns at your neighborhood hospital. These projects will form a menu of options your group will select from to support your goals. When assembling these options, look to see if there are missing elements and actively pursue the needed resources.

### ***Step 5 - Creating a Simple Intervention Plan***

Your Neighborhood Intervention Plan will be a road map of sorts, guiding your intervention team through your initial assessments, criteria selection, mutually agreed upon activities and events, community linkages, and measurement outcomes. This plan will also serve to address expectations and responsibilities, identify key community assets and resources, and show how your neighborhood's efforts can ultimately pay off in a better quality of life for residents.

To see what a sample Intervention Plan looks like, refer to the Case Study in Section IV which outlines how two neighborhoods in Tucson, Arizona joined together and created a plan that was based upon mutually agreed upon objectives, measurement criteria and specific projects that resulted in the dramatic decrease in meth-related crime and increase in the overall quality of life for residents.

### ***Step 6 - Implementing Your Neighborhood Intervention Plan***

The first three months of your activities will entail planning the scope of work and determining how to partner with your Neighborhood Association. These early efforts will be performed to establish a good rapport and outline expectations for the year-long project. Latter efforts will be marked by your first public event – a kick-off party – to engage your friends and neighbors.

Your group can send two or three individuals to approach your Neighborhood Association and talk to them to gain their support and bring them on board. A three-pronged educational approach will include telling them who your team is, what your team's purpose is (to reduce/eradicate negative effects in your neighborhood associated with meth and other drug use), and inviting them to

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<sup>14</sup> DEA, February 28, 2003. *Pseudoephedrine Retailers Meeting*, Arlington, Virginia. Retrieved April 10, 2008 from Office of Diversion Control website <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/mtgs/pseudoephedrine/pseudo.htm>

participate. If they agree, schedule a follow-up meeting between the Neighborhood Association's leadership and your core team to review your selected menu of neighborhood interventions. During this meeting, a full description of the interventions will be provided to leadership so they can understand the kinds of activities that might be undertaken during the upcoming year.

Your Neighborhood Association will also be fertile ground for recruiting project committee members as well. This critical group of individuals will be responsible for working in partnership with a diverse cross-section of people from your immediate neighborhood, as well as elected officials, business professionals, law enforcement agencies and other groups who all will play important roles in the project's success. Communication and organization will become paramount when it comes to identifying your neighborhood's unique strategies to combat meth and the related tasks involved along the way.

When your Neighborhood Association's leadership agrees to participate in the project, your group will need to clarify mutual goals and communicate your understanding of the current problems related to meth and other drugs in your neighborhood. Take time early on to be aware of residents' perspectives and opinions of drug-related crime and addiction. These perspectives will be based upon having to live in fear of potential violence by the addict, retribution by drug dealers and thefts associated with the drug culture.

One method of identifying the overall state of your neighborhood is to perform a SWOT Analysis<sup>15</sup>. Asking residents what the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats within your neighborhood are will create greater understanding and will also facilitate their selection of interventions. One of the most important outcomes for this project is to create a sense of self-reliance in developing solutions for existing problems.

Since your Neighborhood Intervention Project will require a good deal of preparation and coordination upfront, some serious questions to ask your Neighborhood Intervention Committee are these: How strong is our existing Neighborhood Association? Is there a lot of infighting, or do people work together to get things accomplished? What are our relationships like with elected officials in our area? How do we handle adversity when it arises?

Once you've completed your pre-assessment of your neighborhood leadership and the health of your Neighborhood Association, the next step in the process will involve identifying a leader. This person should be able to devote the time and energy to project coordination, and can be either the Neighborhood Association president or another member of the association. By mapping out your neighborhood's assets and where it might be deficient, a clearer picture of who needs to be invited to the table will emerge to help with your intervention plan.

### **Selecting a Liaison**

At this time, a paid community Liaison needs to be recruited and appointed to coordinate the work of the project partners including your team and the residents, so the selection of a well-qualified individual will pay many dividends in the long run. This Liaison will serve as an important connection between all partners/stakeholders and will also monitor all aspects of communication. He or she may use pre-established assessment tools to evaluate the neighborhood and neighborhood leadership for project sustainability, and can also identify resources available to assist your neighborhood. Funding for this position can be sought from stakeholders who have a strong investment in your project's

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<sup>15</sup> Mind Tools Ltd, 2008. *Personal SWOT Analysis, Discover New Opportunities, Manage and Eliminate Threats*, Retrieved on March 24, 2008 from [http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC\\_05\\_1.htm](http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_05_1.htm)

success, such as businesses, law enforcement, and local government agencies. If funding for this position cannot be raised or donated, perhaps a recently retired individual residing in your neighborhood would be willing and able to devote the time required to coordinate project efforts.

The Liaison's duties would include:

- Facilitating the integration of work by the project partners, including the neighborhood groups, your anti-meth coalition (if any), your local police department, city/county officials, prevention and treatment providers, local education associations, local school districts and neighborhood business owners
- Serving as a link between partners and monitoring all communication efforts
- Using assessment tools to evaluate neighborhood leadership for their ability to sustain the project's efforts and identifying resources to assist them
- Together with the neighborhood leadership, identifying neighborhood assets as well as other factors that could dramatically impact project outcomes
- Keeping the project on schedule as outlined in the project timeline
- Maintaining accurate records of the project's schedule of events and accomplishments
- Submitting monthly reports of the project's events and accomplishments to leadership and participating law enforcement agencies

### **Introducing your Plan to the Neighborhood**

You are now ready to inform your neighborhood about an exciting project taking place that will help reduce social problems related to drug abuse. In order to ensure maximum participation, this meeting should be publicized well in advance via flyers, phone calls, or a mailer sent out to all households in your neighborhood from your city council ward office. The goal is to get as many people to show up as possible, learn about the project and ask any questions about its implementation.

Assessing where your neighborhood is in terms of stability will help everyone understand what quality of life issues need to be addressed and/or remedied. Appendix G features a Neighborhood Quality of Life Survey that can be circulated during the meeting to get feedback from as many residents as possible. The survey can also be filled out by a number of neighborhood businesses, community health providers within your neighborhood boundaries (if any), addiction treatment facilities (if any), faith-based institutions, public school principals and other officials.

Based upon the responses you receive to your Quality of Life survey, the Neighborhood Association will have a set of valuable data to help focus on areas needing attention, as well as draw upon identified assets (i.e., strong interconnectedness of neighbors) to help in the creation of your Neighborhood Intervention Plan. In addition, you'll be comparing the survey results to the community statistics to determine if there are any gaps. For example, if neighbors have identified that burglary is not a problem but crime statistics tell another story, the difference between perception and data would indicate an area needing attention. Your local police department can help out by providing crime statistics and other reports.

In developing a menu of neighborhood projects to address which will be your list of preventive strategies and supporting activities, you can encourage neighbors to limit their selections to no more than three interventions. Being able to realistically complete the intervention project is extremely important in building your list of accomplishments. A common occurrence in communities impacted by drugs is the tireless work of a few leaders who are motivated and passionate to make a change, but only

have a handful of helpers to rely upon. Selecting fewer interventions avoids burnout and builds a “we can” attitude. While making your selections, consider the sustainability of the interventions and look for components that will be on-going after the project. Also, plan how your group will address the longevity of each selection.

In order to create an identity for your Neighborhood Intervention Project, your group may want to consider coming up with a name and designing a logo to be used on posters, flyers and all other communication materials. Tucson Neighbors Building Community, or TNBC for short, was the name selected and used by the Oak Flower and Dodge Flower neighborhoods on t-shirts, wrist bands, meeting agendas and minutes, flyers, posters, and other printed materials. The slogan “Meth – Get



out of Dodge!" arose from the residents' desire to send a clear message about where they wanted meth to go, preferably down and out one of the community's main north/south streets – Dodge Boulevard.

For the series of flyers and posters produced for the Meth Free Alliance in Tucson, TNBC members were photographed and used in the printed materials. Appendix H is a reduced reproduction of the

four-color 24-inch by 36-inch posters that were hung in laundromats, grocery stores, neighborhood businesses, faith-based institutions, apartment complex common areas, convenience stores and gas stations. Appendix I is a copy of the actual two-color flyer that was produced in English and Spanish and distributed via plastic door hangers, at community events, stuffed in grocery bags at area supermarkets and handed out whenever possible.

### **The Role of Law Enforcement**

Collecting a baseline set of data for your success measures will enable you to take a side-by-side look at the state of your neighborhood before and after implementing your intervention. One way to get more neighborhood residents involved in the project is to ensure it is first safe for them to participate.

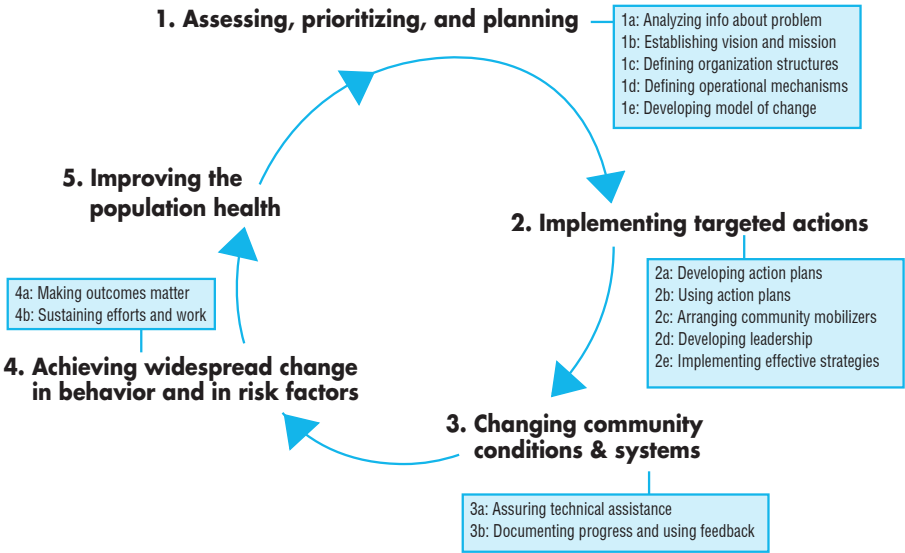
Two low-profile activities will need to occur before mobilizing your community. These suggested law enforcement activities will involve the help of specialized operations to remove large-scale drug dealers and known violent offenders from the scene.

As law enforcement addresses existing drug-related crime by disrupting drug rings and their key counterparts, these actions will immediately serve to reduce crime rates. Such a significant change at the beginning of the project will help to motivate the community by showing how quickly your neighborhood's safety and quality of life can immediately improve via activities geared toward permanent removal of these offenders, or involving activities that forbid the negative element to return to the community.

### **Engaging Your Neighborhood**

To activate a community-based response to meth and other drugs, it is important to understand the dynamics associated with community engagement. Community engagement, simply defined, is a process connecting the Neighborhood Intervention Committee with the greater community at large, and revolves around a series of activities to provide information to and receive feedback from affected persons, or stakeholders (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Process for Community Change and Improvement



*Institute of Medicine framework for community collaborative action (IOM, 2003; CDC, 2002)*

Appendix J lists the five levels of community involvement. The premise of the Neighborhood Intervention Project is based upon utilizing the highest level of engagement, which is empowerment. All final decision making is placed in the hands of the neighborhood, with the Intervention Committee figuring out how to execute what the neighborhood ultimately decides is the best plan of action.

Telephones are one of the easiest ways to communicate when it comes to quickly reaching friends and neighbors. Your neighborhood can set up a phone tree (or phone directory) if one doesn't currently exist, of home, work and cell phone numbers to stay in touch, promote meeting dates or gather support for a neighborhood event.

**Neighborhood Note**

Nothing will derail your project's efforts faster than having too few people plan and carry out the many tasks associated with this project. Burn-out and apathy are a huge risk when the same group is constantly doing all of the work.

**Promoting the Neighborhood Intervention Project with a Kick-off Event**

Your neighborhood can work on putting together a comprehensive publicity campaign for a Kick-off Event that is low-cost or no cost, depending upon your association's financial resources. A flyer is easy to develop and can be composed on a personal computer or taken to a neighborhood copying and printing store for design and output. Committee members can approach area big box chains and grocery stores to inquire if management will permit the stuffing of flyers in grocery bags at the check-out.

E-mail blitzes, word-of-mouth, a listing in your daily newspaper and press releases for local media are all no-cost ways to promote your Kick-off Event. A sample press release is included in Appendix P to assist your group in drafting copy points for the media. Local television stations can also be asked if they'd be willing to help produce a 30-second public service announcement to air one to two weeks prior to the event. Depending upon the structure of your city or county's Neighborhood Resources Department, your event information might be able to piggyback with their existing communications (newsletters, etc.).

Planning for an event is an exercise in details, so the more neighborhood members on board to help, the better. Your list of activities and specific needs should be planned out far enough in advance to ensure coordination efforts are successful and enough lead time is given to promote the event. Appendix K provides a sample budget to begin these activities. One way to capture names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses is to have a raffle or drawing for an item donated by a neighborhood business. This data can be entered into a spreadsheet and utilized when promoting team meetings, doing mailings or mobilizing residents for a specific task.

During all phases of the Neighborhood Intervention Project, meetings will be conducted regularly to implement respective projects, update neighborhood members about the project's progress and measure results. Meeting notes (Appendix Q) will document activities and serve as a work-in-progress report. Coordination with area schools during this time will be necessary to explore if any of your projects can involve an educational component for students.



### Neighborhood Note

Service calls to police may actually increase during the initial stages of instituting your crime-free housing program. This is actually the sign of a healthy program that's working, and not a negative indicator

Your neighborhood can arrange to have local television stations and newspapers turn out and cover your project activities. Ice cream socials and fund raising events are excellent opportunities to gather people together and educate everyone attending about the project. All participants can get to know each other in a relaxed setting. A golf event held at a local golf course can help engage members of the business community and raise money for your intervention project activities. These events can all serve to bring a wide range of people together, encourage conversations, form new relationships and brainstorm new activities.

## Step 7 - Measuring Your Plan's Effectiveness

Measures of your neighborhood's success will show how criteria such as crime rates have changed over time compared to the project's beginning, midway through the process, and at the end of the project. The data collected for Selection Criteria will be indicative of the changes you'd like to make in your neighborhood. A portion of the data from resources outlined in the Selection Criteria is compiled annually and will not be available except once a year from certain government organizations.

There are other sources of data that can also supplement the Selection Criteria data. Swipe technology can be used by your group to determine the presence of illicit drugs in public locations, such as crosswalk buttons, bus benches and pay phones. Swipe technology can identify cocaine, opiates,



cannabis, methamphetamine, and amphetamine on various public surfaces. Results can be obtained immediately from a set of samples collected throughout the project, and can indicate how pervasive illegal drugs are in your neighborhood.

Volunteer neighborhood members can get involved in the data collection process which will reveal the presence of illicit drugs. Neighborhood leaders and law enforcement will be able to identify two to four dozen locations drug users and dealers have been seen to touch or known to frequent. Sample collectors, who will need to be unaffiliated with law enforcement, will go to each site and swipe a series of test papers over the non-porous surfaces and later spray the paper to observe how the color changes on the test paper. The aerosol spray causes drug residuals to turn specific colors. One analytical method will cause cocaine residual to turn turquoise and another method will cause marijuana residuals to turn red. A map can be prepared illustrating the exact location of the drugs. Law enforcement can use the data to refine operations and determine if the data reveal new drug presence patterns. The community can use the data to define what drugs should be tested for during educational programs and other prevention and treatment-oriented interventions.

While all of the neighborhood activities are occurring, the Liaison will be meeting with your neighborhood organization and other project partners. These groups will be all working toward specific accomplishments as time goes along. Each group will be encouraged to assemble a list of their achievements, which will be defined as any positive change from the baseline. Making sure the accomplishments are well known will serve to build confidence in these activities. Everybody wants to be on a winning team, so develop your strategy and show how all parties involved have gained by their participation.

**Neighborhood Note**

Neighborhoods can hire quality private security guards (paid or volunteer) to work in tandem with residents and police. HUD allows payment for such guards from federal Drug Elimination Act funds and the Public Housing operating budget.

*Source: Empowerment Strategies to Eliminate Neighborhood Crime*

**Receiving Progress Reports from Your Liaison**

The following progress measures have been listed below and are directly linked to meth-related problems:

- Reports about neighborhood and non-neighborhood entities and people collaborating on specific, evidence-based strategies to prevent, intervene on and treat meth-related addictions and problems
- Events and actions undertaken to prevent, intervene on and treat meth-related problems in the target neighborhood by community persons and organizations
- Adoption and implementation of data collection and monitoring strategies that will provide evidence of success
- Other indicators that may be developed

The Liaison can also help the neighborhood focus on defining what successful outcomes would look like. One important factor to consider is to have the residents ask themselves what would happen if

a certain group member or resource happened to disappear during the course of the project. Would this negatively affect the project's outcome in any way? If so, your group would need to have a sustainable “Plan B” in place to compensate for the missing person or element.

**Deliverables**

The following deliverables are reports or indices that will demonstrate the Liaison’s efforts and progress on the above measures:

- The monthly number of organized groups contributing to the project
- The number of meetings and hours attended in coordination efforts
- The presentation of documented reports regarding neighborhood assessment, applied strategies and resulting output measures
- A monthly project schedule and progress reports
- Maintaining a project list of accomplishments coordinated with project goals

**Documenting Your Neighborhood’s Results**

A final report is recommended to document what took place, the people who performed the work and the results. The reports listed in Table 4 can be useful tools in communicating successes to your

**Table 4. Elements to Document Results of Intervention Plan**

Selection Criteria
Menu of Neighborhood Interventions
Community Action Plans
Reports from the Task Forces
Steering Committee meeting minutes
News reports about the neighborhood, public events, and law enforcement actions
Timeline of actions and accomplishments
Data sets collected for the project
Listing of all media materials
Public Service Announcements
Pamphlets, flyers, posters, mailers
Pens, wristbands, key chains
List of awards received during the project
Photographs of members and events

**Reporting Results to Public & Private Sectors**

Disseminating results of the interventions is very important for other reasons. Businesses, participating community groups and other involved parties can actively see how their investment is having an impact. Your neighbors will see how their efforts are being recognized. ***The more public your successes are, the more political entities will be interested in participating at your public events.*** The presence of a governor, state attorney general, or mayor at an event for the neighborhood will help to confirm the severity of the problem as well as the importance of your work. Use as many of the methods in Table 5 as you can to publicize the results of your program and keep your work in the limelight.

By acknowledging the public sector’s support, it will allow the issue to be kept in the public eye, and can open the door for acquisition of grants and donations down the road to provide momentum even after the one-year project period is up.

**Table 5. Methods of Publicizing Results**

Reading your results at meetings
Talking about your results with reporters who want to write articles about the project
Listing successes on websites
Verbally congratulating individuals responsible for implementing the change
Nominating individuals for their outstanding activities for community awards
Attending events honoring people who have made a difference

**Neighborhood Note**

Neighborhood members, working closely with law enforcement officials, can learn when drug dealers convicted of selling narcotics in the neighborhood are due to be sentenced for their crimes. By showing up at the dealer’s sentencing, neighborhood members can inform the judge specifically how the dealer’s behavior negatively impacted their community and send a strong message which could ultimately influence sentencing length.

**Step 8 - Finishing the Plan and Celebrating**

Congratulations on a job well done! Your neighborhood has just accomplished what many communities have attempted to achieve . At the project’s conclusion, it’s time to meet with primary participants to discuss how the overall process went. An opportunity for candid dialogue can examine lessons learned, and also serve as a marker for the end of a project. The neighborhood’s enthusiasm and sense of accomplishment can be a tremendous boost for everyone involved, and a huge round of applause is due for all of the planning, hard work and improvements in your neighborhood.

This last phase of the project is designed to give residents the opportunity to feel what it’s like to solve problems collectively. This is why it’s so important to provide positive reinforcement to each other along the way, and at the end celebrate how far everyone has come and grown in the process. Your neighborhood has, in effect, identified its own problems, prioritized them, selected which ones to focus attention on and developed strategies that included other social and governmental resources in addition to your own. Furthermore, your neighborhood enacted its own will in the process and learned how to solve problems from within, using external resources and manpower to complement efforts. This level of problem-solving is highly advanced and representative of the strengths your neighborhood never even realized were there.

A wrap-up event for residents and other participants who helped make this success a reality can be held to thank everyone for their contributions and to demonstrate continued solidarity. Your event can be as simple as a potluck or larger in nature, with organizers contacting area retail stores for donations of food, prizes, live bands, jumping castles and other fun activities. It's up to you how to choose to promote your successes!

## **IV. Case Study: Tucson Neighbors Building Community (TNBC)**

### **A. Background**

The Meth Free Alliance's Neighborhood Intervention Project in Tucson was a community-based mobilization experiment to intervene on, treat and prevent the impacts of methamphetamine abuse. The project was spearheaded to demonstrate that neighborhoods can successfully take back their communities from drug trafficking, get meth addicts into treatment and improve the overall quality of life for its inhabitants.

#### **Knowing there was a Meth Problem**

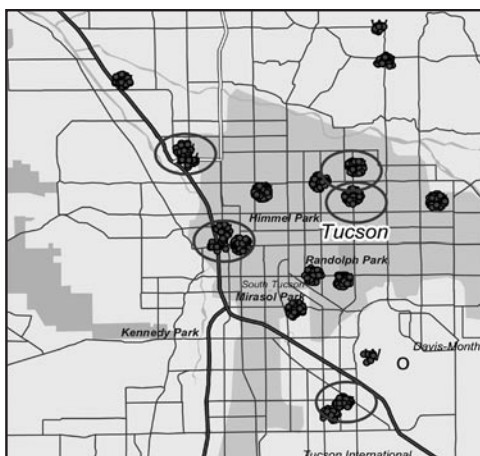
In early 2005, a group of Tucsonans called an urgent meeting to discuss how meth had taken over their community. A local substance-abuse treatment provider observed how the use of meth had damaged the brains of addicts seeking treatment services. This damage interfered with recovery methods known to be effective for individuals abusing other stimulants. The physiological loss within the meth addict was shockingly evident. Concerns grew that all area treatment providers would be overwhelmed with meth addicts reaching out for sobriety unless another strategy was developed.

In addition to the severe health impacts, the treatment provider was also struck by the environmental contamination caused by cooking meth and the high levels of violence within the families of meth addicts, and asked for help from the Catholic Diocese of Tucson and the president of the Arizona Medical Association (AMA). The Bishop had heard stories about people who had been exposed to toxic chemicals from meth labs and had become sick, the rampant child abuse and extreme forms of violence. The AMA physician recognized the long-term impacts of addressing the neurological damage, infectious diseases, dental and skin damage and organ failure of meth addicts.

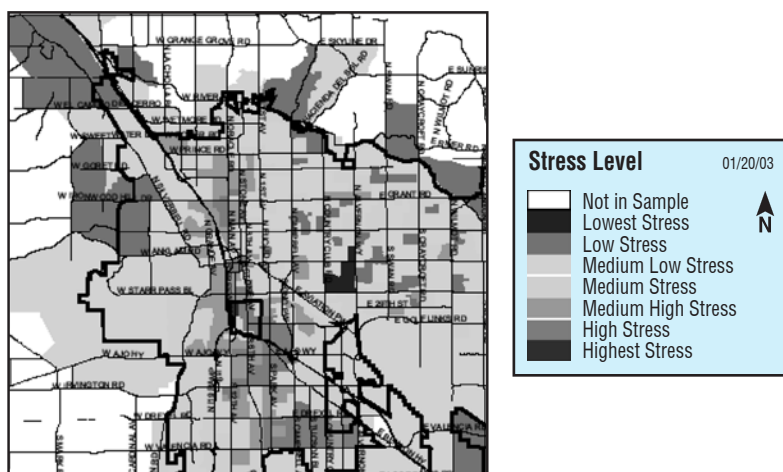
With three influential community groups raising the alarm regarding the severity of Tucson's meth problem, the Bishop issued a call-to-action enlisting help from law enforcement, businesses, and education professionals. Immediate and effective action was necessary to stem the negative impacts of meth addiction. The new strategy needed to address future meth addicts and supplement law enforcement and substance abuse treatment. The solution was a community-based intervention.

The Tucson Police Department and the Counter Narcotics Alliance had closely tracked the increases in drug-related crimes and made 18 meth lab seizures within the metropolitan area of Tucson in 2005. They characterized the crime levels in five hotspots (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Five Hot Spots with High Levels of Crime Associated with Meth (Oak Flower/Dodge Flower Neighborhoods)**



**Figure 4. Tucson Composite Stress Index**



A local organization that identifies, develops, tests, and markets large-scale behavior change programs reported a disturbing national trend that revealed teens between the ages of 12 and 17 were using hard drugs such as meth in increasing numbers. The report addressed the lifetime costs to society for school discipline, judicial processing, health care, and incarceration, which amounted to over \$250,000 per addicted teen. These negative impacts were reflected by community stress levels (Figure 4)<sup>16</sup> The Meth Free Alliance (MFA) was formed in Tucson in March 2005 and actively embraced a collaborative work approach between public and private organizations. Appendix L illustrates the organizational structure used to manage the Steering Committee and its 400 volunteers. The following set of guiding principles were developed to keep the MFA working together and focused on its mission to reduce the negative impacts of methamphetamine by:

<sup>16</sup> City of Tucson, 2002. *Indicators of Neighborhood Stress, Measures of Need and Dependency from Census 2000 for Tucson Block Groups*, 12p.

1. Concentrating on community collaborations and setting aside personal, professional and agency agendas in order to pursue consensus
2. Maintaining a positive outlook and participating in making challenges become opportunities
3. Presenting continuous recruitment opportunities
4. Using current and measurable data to guide all actions and to measure results

### Forming the Team

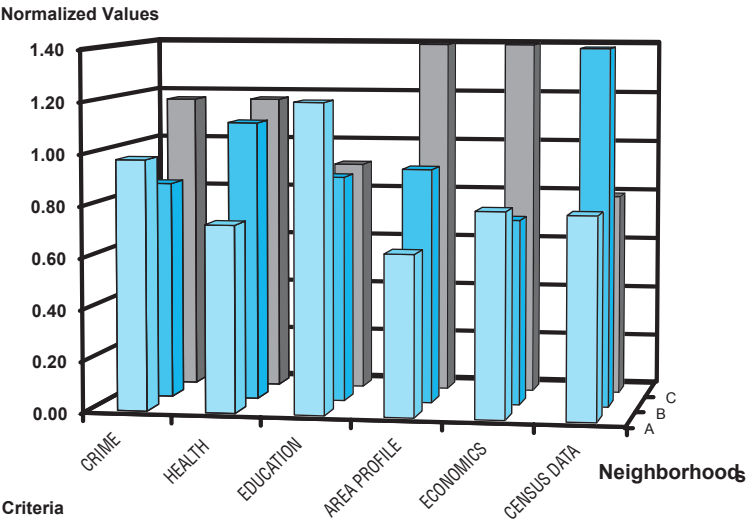
The core group of MFA founders developed a strategy to mobilize the community by applying a Logic Model developed by one of the Steering Committee members (Appendix F). From this effort, they defined essential areas of expertise needed to address the meth problem. The founders developed a mission statement, goals, and activities for volunteers, and issued a public call-to-action in June 2005 by providing inspiring and factual presentations by the core members. Over 200 people volunteered to join the various task forces. These volunteers included residents in the community, businesses, professionals and elected officials, including the Arizona State Governor.

Each task force chairperson received a toolkit and a notebook with the MFA's mission statement, as well as identified goals and activities their task force could address. Instructions within the notebook spelled out how to call a meeting together, how to keep in contact with their volunteers and prepare meeting minutes. When the task forces met for the first time, the groups had a list of clearly identified activities they could begin working on immediately. The toolkit was comprised of a plastic case with six dividers containing one-hole punch and multiple copies of the following:

- A meth fact sheet
- A list of treatment and prevention providers
- How to write a letter to legislators
- A list of all Arizona state legislators, their e-mail addresses and attendance logs

### Assessing the Neighborhoods

**Figure 5. Normalized Indicators of Community Health**  
*(Values above one indicate unfavorable conditions relative to other neighborhoods)*



The range of issues and the level of human damage was a surprise to the community leaders. The MFA invested time collecting more data for an accurate picture of the meth problem, and also sought to find an objective method of selecting which neighborhood would be the first to participate in a community-based intervention. The baseline data set included crime statistics, public health and welfare data, education, community health (abatements, zone restrictions), economic, and Census Data (Figure 5 and Appendix N).

A partnership evolved between data researchers and law enforcement and revealed several important concepts. The baseline data showed that one area of Tucson was experiencing a high level of crime associated with meth use, had high Child Protective Service removals, large numbers of behavioral health clients, frequent ambulance transports, high Emergency Room admissions, and overall economic stressors. The final neighborhood (Neighborhood C in Figure 5) was selected based upon the following criteria:

- A demonstrated need for intervention due to
  - High levels of crimes related to meth use
  - High levels of behavioral health issues
  - Low economic indicators
  - Large numbers of area profiles indicating instability
- Infrastructure supporting sustainability
  - A strong neighborhood association capable of working with its residents
  - The presence of businesses with a community focus
  - Faith-based community participation

The neighborhood associations were also evaluated for strengths and weaknesses as well as how they viewed opportunities and threats. Areas of focus were the associations' commitment to the program, the state of neighborhood leadership, the level of resident participation and a history of successes with other neighborhood projects.

## **B. Planning to Address the Meth Problem**

### **Developing a Strategy**

Once presented with the study, the MFA Steering Committee recommended hiring a Liaison to facilitate coordination and execution of the program. Law enforcement provided partial funding to hire an experienced neighborhood coordinator as the project's Liaison.

The Steering Committee then approached neighborhood leadership, discussed the project and got their enthusiastic approval to participate. The team quickly set up the first neighborhood workshop and invited the residents to discuss the project, goals and objectives. MFA Steering Committee members stressed that the project was a community engagement process focused on behavioral change principles and not a “hand-out” by the MFA or the City of Tucson and the midtown area's city council ward office. The concept of self-reliance was continually stressed to empower the neighborhood residents to take action, sustain efforts, and continue them after the project's one-year period had lapsed. The task force chairs provided a list of services to engage the community, and the neighborhood associations discussed their priorities and goals when considering what interventions they favored. Appendix O provides an evidence-based method for preventing, intervening on, and treating meth-related problems.



The MFA's Steering Committee wanted to bring the neighborhood's actions into the public realm both to educate the community about the severity of the meth problem and to empower the neighborhood members. The greater awareness also recruited additional members to the neighborhood to make improvements. Joining the group became a status symbol due to the fact that the neighbors were part of a bigger plan to benefit their community.

### **Writing a Simple Intervention Plan**

Neighborhood residents came to the table with their personal interests for protecting their neighborhood and making improvements, and the neighborhood association meeting minutes documented the interventions chosen for the year-long Neighborhood Intervention Project.

The first area of focus evolved based upon one resident's efforts to identify where rental properties were located in order to contact the landlords and inform them of the importance of maintaining crime-free housing and proper tenant screening (Appendix M). The second project involved an application for a Friends of Feral Cats grant from PRO Neighborhoods in Tucson.

While working on these two projects, the neighbors discovered that they wanted a high level of communication and contact with law enforcement, and routinely held a community law enforcement meeting. The neighbors were also interested in new technology to measure the level of illicit drugs within their neighborhood and agreed to participate in a Swipe Test Study.

The simple plan started by the neighborhood was composed as follows:

**Name:** Tucson Neighbors Building Community (TNBC)

**Slogan:** Meth – Get out of Dodge

**Activities:**

1. Improve property maintenance by working with landlords
2. Reduce feral cat population by acquiring a Friends for Feral Cats grant
3. Reduce crime through partnership with law enforcement
4. Create a public meeting space for neighbors to socialize and work together
5. Measure the presence of illicit drugs in the neighborhood via swipe technology

## **C. Working in the Community**

### **Implementing the Plan**

Crime analysis and specialized police deployments played an important role in disrupting the flow of meth from large-scale dealers. Removal of the most negative elements prepared the area for neighborhood residents to become involved. This was accomplished using low-profile undercover operations by law enforcement.

A neighborhood Kick-off Event was held to mark the beginning of the Neighborhood Intervention Project. Residents designed a comprehensive publicity campaign that was low-cost and wide-reaching. Working with a marketing professional on the MFA's Steering Committee, the neighbors had a logo and flyer designed and secured a donation for printing from a neighborhood business. The neighbors approached an area big box grocery store and inquired if management would allow the flyers to be stuffed in grocery bags at the check-out.

E-mail blitzes, word-of-mouth, listings in the daily newspaper and press releases were sent out to publicize the Kick-off Event. A local television station helped to produce a 30-second public service announcement which aired two weeks prior to the event.

Planning for this event was an exercise in details for the residents. One way they decided to capture names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for residents attending the event was to have a drawing for an item donated by a neighborhood business. This data was then entered into a spreadsheet and utilized when promoting meetings, doing mailings or mobilizing residents for a specific task.

Several private sector businesses played an integral role in the success of the MFA's Neighborhood Intervention Project. Without the donations these companies made in the form of personnel, materials, money and resources, the Oak Flower/Dodge Flower Neighborhoods would not have been as successful in their intervention efforts.

Tucson Police Department and the Tucson Drug Enforcement Administration Office provided dedicated leadership, empirical crime data, undercover operations, a uniformed police presence within the two neighborhoods, and many other public sector assets that served to decrease the availability of meth and its associated impacts.

COPE Community Services, a Tucson behavioral health organization, provided addiction treatment linkages, staff, and fiscal organization support to the Meth Free Alliance.

Kaneen Advertising and Public Relations provided a communications professional to attend Steering Committee meetings and on-site neighborhood gatherings, produced an entire social marketing campaign with television and radio PSAs, bus shelter ads, flyers and posters demonstrating the negative effects of meth and assisted in all media relations, public relations and community outreach efforts.

Lights Ahead identified pertinent regulations governing meth lab remediation, improved communication between regulatory agencies and entities involved in meth lab clean-ups, and developed a community monitoring program to identify the illicit drugs present within the neighborhoods.

PAXIS Institute, an organization that identifies, develops, tests, and markets large-scale behavior change programs, provided the scientific foundation and research for the Oak Flower/Dodge Flower Neighborhood Intervention Plan and also helped to fund a portion of the project Liaison's position to help residents coordinate efforts.

Lark Consulting spearheaded outreach efforts within the business communities of the two neighborhoods, worked in tandem with residents to educate proprietors about the meth problem within their respective trading areas and enlisted their financial support for select events.

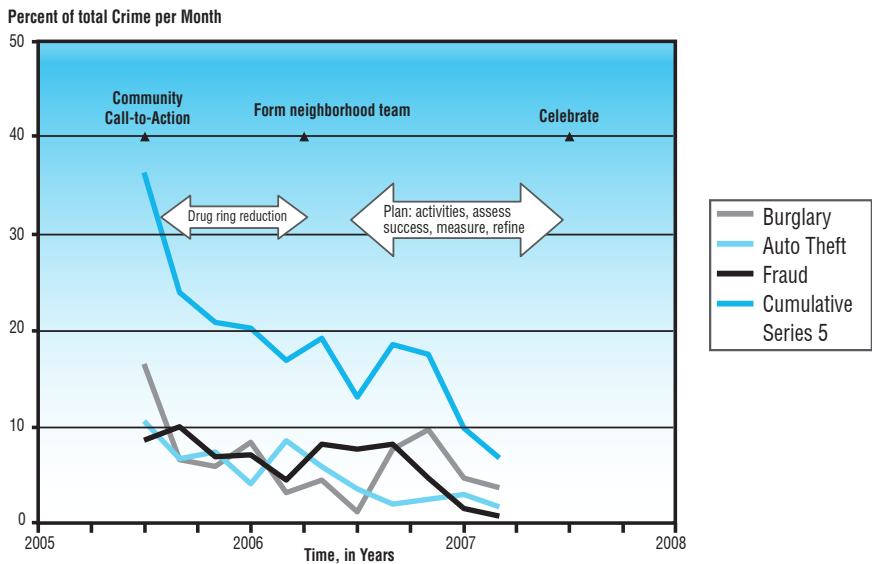
Tucson Elected Officials also worked closely with the neighborhoods to support activities when possible and provided additional resources.

## **Measuring the Plan**

There were two primary benchmarks for the project; crime statistics and swipe sample results. Other data sets required a high level of work or had such a large time lag that the information would not be useful during the project. Data from hospitals, treatment centers, and behavioral health organizations were either confidential or required three to six months to process and distribute.

Crime statistics were collected by the Tucson Police Department and the Counter Narcotics Alliance (Figure 6). Low profile activities targeting drug-ring leaders in the community resulted in a significant reduction of crime within the first few months. Additional efforts by the community to inform the police of on-going issues and knowing what kind of information to look for and report also contributed to a decline in the crime levels. The percentage of crimes related to meth was reduced from 37% to 7% within the first nine months of the project.

Figure 6. Changes in Meth-related Crime in Tucson, Arizona (Fiscal years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007)



### Finishing the Plan and Celebrating

Two months before the project's end, the Liaison asked the residents what kind of celebration they wanted to have to mark their neighborhood successes. The community members who had been active in the project and had accomplished many activities through the year ironically didn't realize at first that there was anything to celebrate, because they didn't know what success actually looked like. With the help of the Liaison, the residents prepared a timeline showing when specific events took place and identified the kinds of outcomes they saw. This process initially had a slow start but accelerated as more events were identified. When the list was completed, they placed the information on a series of pages taped together showing dates and description of each event or pivotal occurrence.

Planning the end of the project became a source of joy when the residents were able to identify noticeable changes. They held a block party, closed down a street in the neighborhood and assembled over ice cream, cookies, cake, and soda in the cool of the evening. The neighborhood had requested some streetlights for increased safety, and on the evening of the block party, the streetlights were turned on for the first time. A number of people who had been working on the project spoke along with the public officials who had supported the project.

## D. Results of the Plan

Research compiled by residents showed the rental rate in the area was 80%, rather than 50% as reported by the Pima County Assessor's office. Most of the property managers or landlords were responsible, however, some were unskilled in screening potential tenants and continued to rent to individuals that were involved in crime, threats, or disruption of the peace. Neighborhood members made a list of all the rental properties and created a landlord database. They mailed a series of letters informing the managers and owners of their desire to improve the community through better rental property management.

Two workshops were held and neighbors invited the managers, owners, and renters to come to the meeting. The workshop covered a range of topics including characteristics of drug users, impacts of drug users to rental properties, tenant screening methods, remediation of methamphetamine laboratories, and implementing rental agreements with a crime-free lease addendum. Even though the number of attendees was lower than expected, the workshop had the effect of creating pockets of crime-free and drug-free properties which would improve the quality of life around the area where the rental property was located. All of the residents involved in this aspect of the project became aware the importance of educating and communicating with area landlords, and how easy it was to send information to them, which was extremely empowering.

TNBC received a \$5,000 grant to remove feral cats. Initially, this activity was thought to be unrelated to drug use and separate from the mission to get meth out of the neighborhood; however, a causal relationship between drug use and the feral cat population was later discovered. As addiction progresses and individuals are unable to maintain their ability to pay rent, they are evicted from rental properties as a consequence. People facing eviction are more likely to focus on survival strategies rather than their affections for a pet, resulting in the animal being left behind. When an eviction occurred, dogs were captured and taken to the dog pound, but no such animal control was available for cats. The abandoned animal was forced to fend for itself and reproduced, which created an ever-increasing feral animal population. Even if this grant had been unrelated to drug use, the importance of being able to identify a goal, fulfill the requirements, and secure the grant monies demonstrated that the residents had the capability to implement change themselves. The importance of this experience lay in the knowledge that if the residents did it once, they could do it again. This success met the MFA's goal of the community being self-reliant.

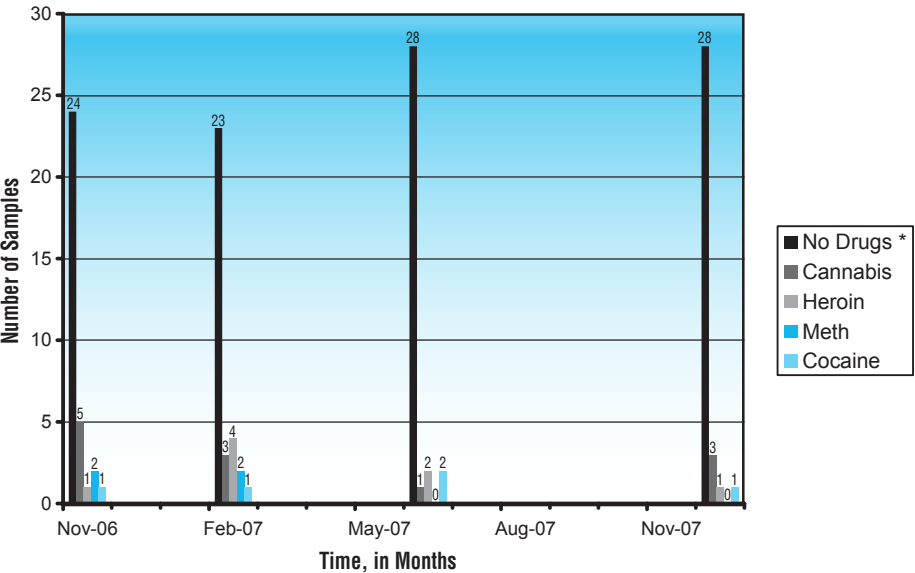
The Community and Law Enforcement meetings changed the way in which the neighbors worked with the Tucson Police Department. Prior to the meetings, the neighbors felt their calls to 911 were ineffective and crime just kept happening. By meeting and talking about specific people and locations with the Tucson Police Department, the residents provided them with detailed information that led to arrests and convictions of street-level drug dealers and drug houses. The residents made a list of the top three problem people or drug house locations every month and went over them with police. Both sides observed the progressive change, which included the quality and frequency of data reported to the police as well as the cessation of the identified crimes. These meetings continue to this day, and have been effective in reducing meth-related crime.

Neighborhood members also realized that they had no public parks or community centers where they could meet or bring their children to play while the adults socialized, which contributed to the sense of not knowing their neighbors. The Tucson Botanical Gardens, which is located adjacent to the Oak Flower and Dodge Flower neighborhoods, quickly stepped up and volunteered the use of their facilities so neighborhood members would have a place to gather.

Results of sampling the neighborhood for illicit drugs provided concrete evidence of the presence of illegal drugs. A meeting was held and residents identified where suspected drug users had touched specific surfaces such as gas pumps, pay phones or door handles helped the group to recognize there was a problem across the entire neighborhood. During the training process for residents showing how to master collection techniques, the team discovered there was a tendency toward power struggles through vigilantism as well as retaliation by drug users or drug dealers. The Steering Committee recommended that the samples were to be collected by individuals living outside the neighborhood.

Although the project targeted methamphetamine, the sampling program for illicit drugs included opiates, cocaine, and cannabis as well as methamphetamine. Drug use frequently entails use of more than one substance, which is partially based upon supply and availability, and many meth addicts end their high with sedatives, opiates, and/or painkillers<sup>17</sup>. This type of drug use occurs frequently enough to be identified as polysubstance abuse<sup>18</sup>. The Steering Committee was interested in the resolution of substance abuse and not the migration of addicts to another drug. If the number of meth positives declined while the total number of positive detections remained the same, the goal of reducing the negative impacts was determined to be short-lived. Analysis of the data showed meth disappeared and the total number of positives declined from 9 to 5, with marijuana occurring most frequently.

Figure 7. Frequency of Illicit Drug Occurrence Within Study Area



<sup>17</sup> Case, Patricia, 2005. The History of Methamphetamine: An Epidemic in Context, Keynote Address to Science & Response: 2005, 1st National Conference in Methamphetamine, HIV, and Hepatitis, August 19-20, Salt Lake City.

<sup>18</sup> Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision, Code 304.80

The sampling has continued with funding from a grant issued by the Pima County Board of Supervisors. Results collected six months after the project ended showed the number of positives remained low (Figure 7).

A number of other unexpected accomplishments occurred over the project’s duration. Pueblo High School produced two public service announcements for the Meth Free Alliance that featured neighborhood students as actors and portrayed negative social consequences for the students who “used” meth. Following closely on the wings of this project, PAXIS Institute also began a middle school education and training program for students and teachers. The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Tucson Police Department brought out their police helicopters and seized drug vehicles, and also held an air and equipment show for the students. The volume of media coverage and public attention was phenomenal, and the MFA received phone calls from the public requesting additional information.

Figure 8. Invitation to TNBC’s PSA Premiere Party



Over the course of the Neighborhood Intervention Project, the MFA received the following community awards for its work:

- Metropolitan Pima Alliance's Common Ground Award (Neighborhood Project)
- Compass Health Care's 2006 Dynamic Duo Award for the Oak Flower and Dodge Flower Neighborhood Association Presidents
- City of Tucson's Mayor's Commendations
- Federal grant to the City of Tucson for a \$250,000 methamphetamine public awareness campaign
- Tucson Advertising Federation – 2006 Silver Addy Award for the Pima County Methamphetamine Public Awareness campaign
- 2008 Primus Award Certificate of Merit for the Pima County Methamphetamine Public Awareness Campaign

## E. Lessons Learned

Community neighborhood projects are essential components in reducing the negative impacts of drug use. The eyes and ears of the Tucson Neighbors Building Community were critical to the intelligence gathering process by law enforcement. The quality and frequency of the information provided by the neighbors to the police ultimately changed their working relationship from adversarial to cooperative, **resulting in crime reduction levels of 60%**. A meth ring of seven individuals was dismantled during the community project, and all seven were later convicted and incarcerated. Sampling within the neighborhood showed **the presence of illicit drugs on public surfaces decreased 47%**.

Public recognition of the neighborhood's efforts to educate landlords, improve safety conditions with street lights, and feral cat removals built good relationships and rapport among the neighbors. Certificates of appreciation were printed for neighborhood businesses and residents participating in the project. A reporter from the *Arizona Daily Star* chronicled the process and had neighbors talk about their successes with the public. Recognition and support were also delivered from the area city council ward office as well.

The tangible successes of reduced levels of crime and the associated presence of drugs directly contributed to an improved quality of life, and contributed to the good feelings generated by new friendships and collaboration among the 500 participants.

## V. Conclusions

To demonstrate the impact of your Neighborhood Intervention Project, you should now have had the opportunity to compile multiple sources of data which will reveal how you can positively impact your community.

How would you define the overall philosophy (or purpose) of your Neighborhood Intervention Project? The Oak Flower/Dodge Flower neighborhoods defined theirs as a large-scale community policing strategy employed as a pilot project incorporating the community. The two neighborhoods did not partner simply to resolve a problem, but for the purpose of supporting and helping to develop residents as self-sufficient individuals who were able to improve conditions in their own neighborhood.

This comprehensive strategy required the coordination of all components of local government, the treatment / prevention community, medical community, the criminal justice process, educational institutions, political bodies, the Meth Free Alliance as a social support system, and the citizens at large. Each organization worked together toward common goals and dedicated their activities to other complimentary actions.

Your program most likely will include one or more of the following goals:

- To reduce the volume of meth-related crime
- To improve the quality of life in the neighborhood
- Enable residents to become more self-reliant in maintaining the neighborhood.
- To create a success model to share with other neighborhoods.

Ultimately, short-term observable victories on the goals outlined above would point to success at community problem-solving and long-term sustainability of those achievements. Where your neighborhood goes from here is unlimited, driven by the determination, imagination and cooperation of each and every resident. Best of luck!



# **A P P E N D I C I E S**

## **Appendix A**

### **Program Description Questions & Answers**

**Q: How long does the Neighborhood Intervention Project take to implement?**

**A:** To facilitate the necessary change within your neighborhood, a minimum of one full year of preparation must be invested. This is to ensure that the appropriate resources are in place, and that progressive levels of responsibility can be transferred from government agencies involved to the neighborhood itself. Operational phases will include:

- ***Strong, Exclusive Police Surveillance*** – To gather intelligence to rid the project area of meth cells, labs, and violent offenders (a minimum of 3 months)
- ***Community Policing Intervention*** – Law enforcement officers are specifically assigned to the neighborhood, meeting with the neighborhood association, building relationships and providing immediate call/problem response (a minimum of 6 months)
- ***Community Maintenance*** – The transference of core responsibilities from government resources to the community to allow neighborhood residents to assume greater roles in eradicating meth from their neighborhood and to improve their quality of life

**Q: How is this Neighborhood Intervention Project different than other revitalization plans, and what makes it better?**

**A:** To ensure that your neighborhood and its residents can thrive, crime relating to meth and/or other narcotics must first be controlled. Reducing crime is a key to neighborhood revitalization and economic improvement. The Neighborhood Intervention Project's distinct difference lies within the concerted focus of law enforcement up front. ***Meth use directly affects public safety and health in ways that other narcotics do not.*** In order for a meth-affected neighborhood's citizens to proceed with revitalization efforts, it is imperative that the major meth offenders – large-scale dealers, meth labs and violent criminals be removed from the area. Once this element has been reduced or eliminated, citizens within the neighborhood can move forward on working to interact with each other and improve their community.

**Q: What are some of the Project's strengths?**

**A:** This project has the flexibility to be tailored to suit the unique needs of each community. Your neighborhood association can define its own activities, and how it organizes around these activities will assist in the neighborhood's becoming more self-reliant, as long as non-meth related activities do not serve to dilute program goals.

**Q: What are some of its limitations?**

**A:** In order to increase the probability of successful outcomes, a strong, cohesive neighborhood association is critical. Neighborhoods suffering from non-existent or fragmented leadership will need to address and correct these issues before embarking upon a Neighborhood Intervention Project.

The commitment and dedication of law enforcement personnel and resources are also crucial components of the project. We address these issues in more depth in Appendix E and provide a worksheet for both police officials and neighborhood leadership to review to estimate the levels of support your neighborhood will require.

**Q: How difficult will this project be to initiate in my community?**

**A:** Positive change, on any level, requires a good deal of planning and effort by many. This comprehensive strategy requires the coordination of local government, especially law enforcement and prosecutorial divisions, the prevention/treatment community, educational institutions, your local anti-meth coalition and citizens within your neighborhood. Each organization must come together and partner under common goals, dedicating activities that compliment each other.

**Q: Our neighborhood doesn't have a large operational budget. Will the Neighborhood Intervention Project cost a lot to implement?**

**A:** The Meth Free Alliance spent \$40,500 to execute its project in Tucson. Much of the project's costs were offset by businesses and professionals from all walks of life who donated time and resources to assist in achieving goals and objectives, and were also enhanced by dedicated involvement from Tucson's mayor and elected officials.

Many of the prevention, intervention and treatment protocols recommended in this report are low-cost and have been previously proven to help those suffering from meth addiction, as well as neighborhoods impacted by meth's negative effects.



## Appendix B

### Best Practices in the Meth Free Alliance Neighborhood Project

Best Process	Examples
1. Analyze information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Counter Narcotics Agency conducted extensive analyses of meth related crimes and arrests, showing their connections</li> <li>• National Household Survey, Emergency Room admissions, treatment and other indicators</li> </ul>
2. Establish Vision and Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicized by MFA coordinator and other staff</li> </ul>
3. Define Organizational Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine taskforces organized</li> <li>• Steering Committee developed</li> <li>• Procedures for voting and decisions established</li> </ul>
4. Develop Model of Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations and community forums held</li> <li>• Review of literature conducted</li> <li>• Paper developed and published on strategies and logic model</li> </ul>
5. Develop and Use Action Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social marketing plan developed</li> <li>• Media plans developed</li> </ul>
6. Arrange for Community Mobilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighborhood project coordinator recruited</li> <li>• Neighborhood and community events held</li> </ul>
7. Develop Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members sent to trainings</li> <li>• Trainings offered to MFA members</li> <li>• Opinion leaders recruited for events</li> </ul>
8. Implement Effective Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential strategies identified from scientific literature</li> <li>• Trainings offered in procedures</li> <li>• Materials developed, purchased and distributed</li> <li>• Social marketing themes developed</li> </ul>
9. Assure Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledgeable supports identified</li> <li>• Web services and phone support developed</li> <li>• Coaches and other supports recruited and trained</li> </ul>
10. Document Progress and Provide Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select measures</li> <li>• Collect measures</li> <li>• Provide 30-day graphs and charts</li> </ul>
11. Make Outcomes Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss outcomes using charts and graphs of 30-day indicators</li> <li>• Create media stories and celebrations</li> <li>• Provide widespread publicity and recognition for successes</li> <li>• Provide actual rewards for changes</li> <li>• Link change agents with high-status persons and events</li> </ul>
12. Sustain work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft policies and procedures for local funding</li> <li>• Remove barriers for sustainability</li> </ul>

## Appendix C

### List of Resources to Contact

#### Federal or Nationwide Resources

- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
  - [www.CADCA.org](http://www.CADCA.org)
  - [www.coalitioninstitute.org](http://www.coalitioninstitute.org)
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)
  - [prevention.samhsa.gov/](http://prevention.samhsa.gov/)
- Drug Free Communities (DFC)
  - [www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/dfc/](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/dfc/)
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
  - [www.hud.gov/community/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/community/index.cfm)
- Meth Resources Website
  - [www.methresources.gov/](http://www.methresources.gov/)
- Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
  - [www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC)
- Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
  - [www.samhsa.gov/](http://www.samhsa.gov/)
  - Center for Substance Abuse

#### State Resources

- Prevention Platform
- Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Group
  - [www.spfsig.net/](http://www.spfsig.net/)
- National Treatment Episode Data (typical time period clients are in treatment within a State)
- State Department of Health Services
- Arizona Program Design and Evaluation Logic Model
  - [http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/hiv/using\\_model.pdf](http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/hiv/using_model.pdf)
- DES
  - [www.azdes.gov/ASPNew/default.asp](http://www.azdes.gov/ASPNew/default.asp)

#### County Resources

- Health departments
- County Recorder

#### City Resources

- Studies Stress Factors



## Appendix D

### Neighborhood Readiness Assessment Worksheet

INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE	NEIGHBORHOOD STATS
<b>Crime-Associated Crime Counts</b>		
<b># of Probationers</b>	<b>State Parole Office</b>	
Meth Offenders	Local Police Department	
Lab Locations	Local Police Department	
Field Interviews	Local Police Department	
Halfway Houses	Local Police Department	

INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE	NEIGHBORHOOD STATS
<b>Health/Community Welfare</b>		
Emergency Room Admissions for Neighborhood Hospital	State Department of Health Services	
Ambulance Transports	Local Fire Department/ Area Paramedic Service	
Child Protective Services Removals	State Department of Economic Security	
Behavioral Health Services Adult Patients Child Patients	State Child Protective Services Organization	

INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE	NEIGHBORHOOD STATS
<b>Education-Data from most recent academic school year available</b>		
# of Schools in Neighborhood	State Department of Education	
# of Student Enrollments	State Department of Education	
<b>Stability Rate % (# of children remaining in school throughout the school year)</b>		
Elementary	State Department of Education	
Middle		
High		
Total # of Charter Schools		

INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE	NEIGHBORHOOD STATS
<b>Neighborhood Profile</b>		
Percentage of Rental Properties	City or County Assessor Office	
Pharmacy Activity <sup>19</sup>	Local DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) Office	
Zone Restrictions <sup>20</sup>	Local Police Department	
Abatements	City or County Neighborhoods Department	
Large Employers	Local Economic Development Office	
Civic Centers	Phone Book	
Faith-Based Institutions	Phone Book	

INDICATOR	DATA SOURCE	NEIGHBORHOOD STATS
<b>Economic</b>		
Business Licenses-most recent fiscal year available	City or County Business License Department	
Sales Tax Receipts	City or County Finance Department	

CENSUS DATA	2000 U.S. Census via Website	NEIGHBORHOOD STATS
<b>Neighborhood Population</b>		
# of Households		
# of Single Parent Households		
# of Families Living Below Poverty Level		
# of Employed Persons in the Labor Force		
Unemployment Percentage		
Neighborhood per Capita Income		
Median Household Income		

<sup>19</sup> Cash sales for prescriptions and tracking purchases

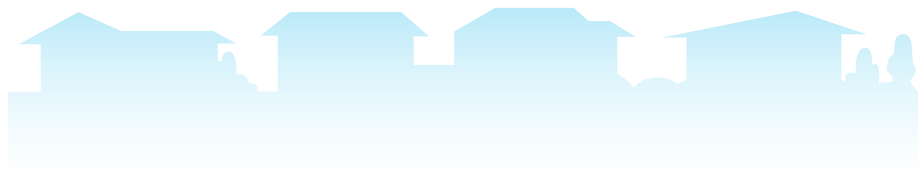
<sup>20</sup> A geographic restraining order implemented by law enforcement

## Appendix E

### Suggested Support from Law Enforcement

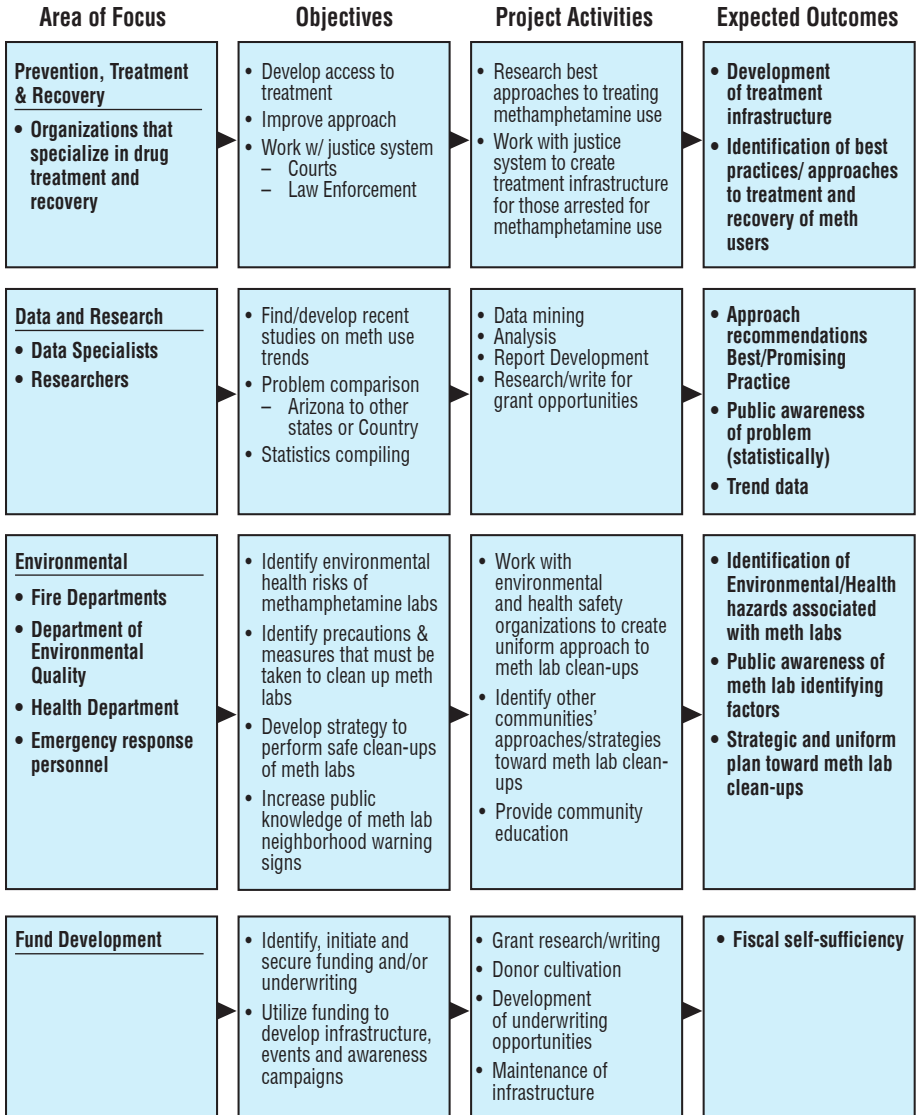
The Neighborhood Intervention Project follows three operational phases, each intended to develop capacities and transfer progressive levels of responsibility to residents from government agencies involved. They include:

1. Strong exclusive police intervention to gather intelligence and rid the project area of meth cells/labs, and violent offenders. Anticipated timeline: 2-3 months
2. Strong community policing intervention, with officers specially assigned to the neighborhood, meeting with the neighborhood association, building relationships, and providing immediate call/problem response. Anticipated timeline: 6 months
3. A transference to community maintenance via neighborhood watch, where the identification and utilization of specific resources allow residents to assume a greater responsibility. Anticipated timeline: 3 months
4. Direct help and support to residents will ultimately be limited to those police services they are not able to do for themselves to help create an environment of self sufficiency.
5. Law enforcement operations may be required to travel beyond the defined project area to address offenders who impact the area but do not reside there.
6. Support from residents; Accurate description by height, weight, race, clothing, of suspicious people in the neighborhood and known locations of high-traffic drug houses.
7. A dedicated phone number to call to anonymously report suspicious behavior if retaliation is feared.
8. Case follow-through by neighbors tracking a convicted offender from the community through the court system.
9. Intelligence sharing with neighbors – print out “Most Wanted” flyers for neighborhood criminals with photos.
10. Contribute to addressing addiction issues within the neighborhood above and beyond the usual by separating profit motivated offenders from addiction motivated individuals.
11. Expand drug court to include treatment for inmates the first day they’re in jail.
12. Encourage neighbors to phone in suspicious activity in the neighborhood to a dedicated phone number, or call local treatment providers for addicted family members.



## Appendix F

### Meth Free Alliance Logic Model<sup>21</sup> for Developing a Strategic Plan

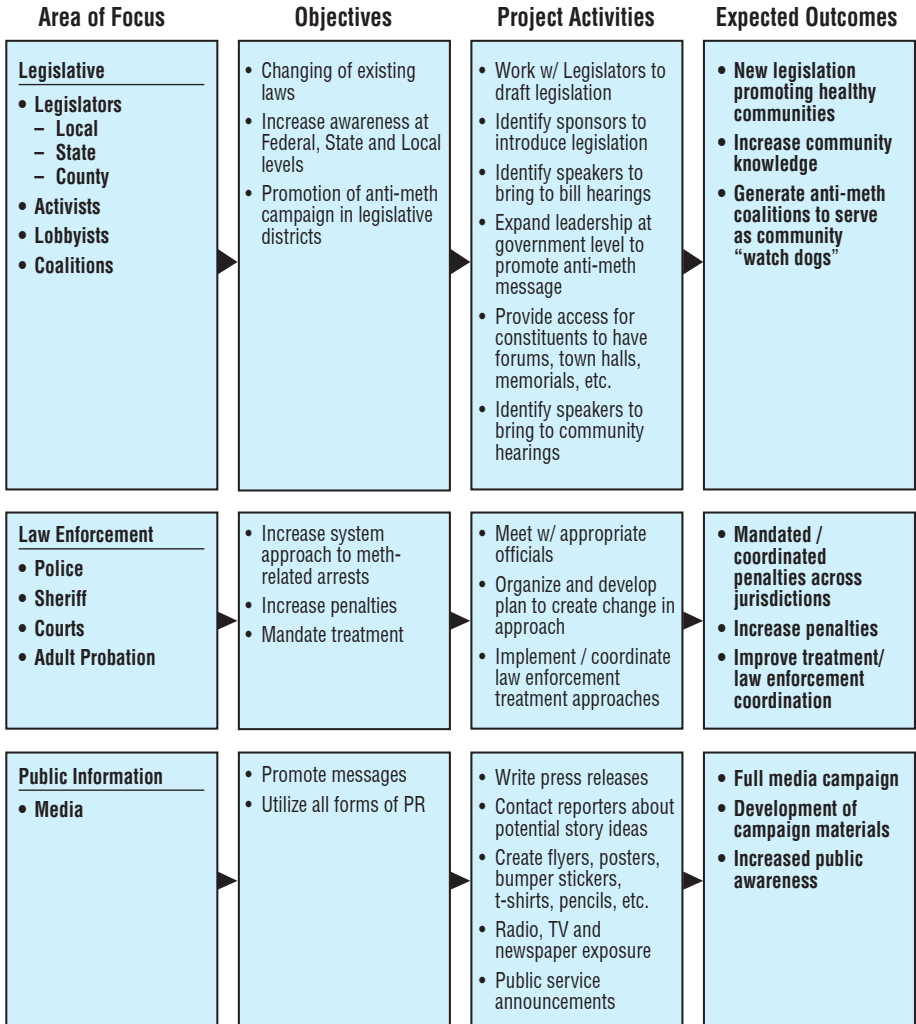


<sup>21</sup> (Specio-Boyer 2005)



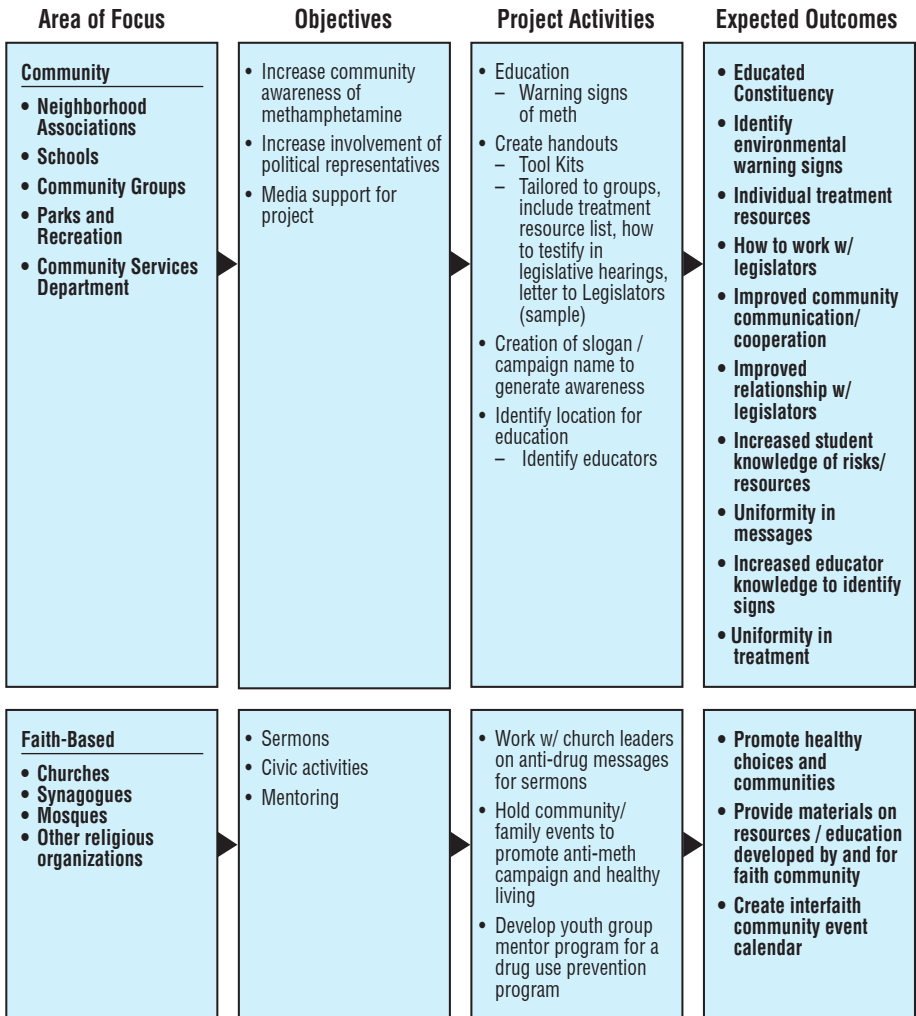
## Appendix F

### Meth Free Alliance Logic Model for Developing a Strategic Plan



## Appendix F

### Meth Free Alliance Logic Model for Developing a Strategic Plan



## Appendix G

### Neighborhood Quality of Life Survey

Think back over the 30 days and answer these questions with a check mark.

Question\Answer	Never	A Little	A Lot	Not in neighborhood in last month
I heard gun shots in the neighborhood				
I saw drug dealing in the neighborhood				
I felt safe taking walks in the neighborhood at night				
I felt safe shopping at stores or businesses in our neighborhood				
Rental properties were well cared for in our neighborhood				
People spent time or money in improving their homes in our neighborhood				
My neighbors help each another out				
I called 911 or other numbers about emergencies in our neighborhood				
My family had things vandalized, stolen, or burglarized in the neighborhood				
My family experienced violence from crime in the neighborhood				
People or organizations invested money or started businesses in our neighborhood				
I saw children, youths, and families outside playing or having fun				
I saw litter, junk, graffiti or trash in our neighborhood				
I saw children or youth cutting school				
Meth has directly affected someone I know or love				
Meth has indirectly affected someone I know or love				

How long have you lived in this neighborhood \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months

What is the nearest north-south street where you live? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the nearest east-west street where you live? \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix H

### Sample English Anti-Meth Posters

# How to Keep Your Neighborhood Meth-Free

#### ***Report Any Suspicious Activity Immediately***

Drug dealers and meth manufacturers intimidate adults and children to stay inside homes and invite meth users into the neighborhood who don't care about its residents or their safety. Call 911.

#### ***Know Your Neighbors***

Ask for their help in making your neighborhood a safer place to live and walk.

#### ***Help a Family Member or Friend Struggling with Meth Addiction***

Call 622-6000 to locate a treatment facility in your neighborhood.

#### ***Join the Meth Free Alliance***

Call 388-4711 to become involved in reclaiming our community from meth.

#### ***Join Neighborhood Watch***

Call 791-4450 and contact the Tucson Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit to obtain your Neighborhood Watch chairperson's phone number



## Meth-It's Our Problem

**METH**  
*Free*  
**Alliance**  
Meth Stops with Us



## Appendix H

### Sample Spanish Anti-Meth Posters

# Como Mantener su Vecindario Libre de la Droga Meth

#### ***Cualquier Actividad Sospechosa***

Los traficantes de drogas y los fabricantes de la droga Meth intimidan a los adultos y niños a quedarse dentro de casa e invitan a los usuarios de la droga Meth al vecindario sin importarles sus residentes o su seguridad. Llame al 9-1-1.

#### ***Conozca a Sus Vecinos***

Pídale su ayuda para hacer de su vecindario un lugar más seguro para vivir y andar.

#### ***Ayude a Miembro de su Familia o Amigo Que Está Luchando Contra la Adicción de la Droga Meth.***

Llame al 622-6000 para localizar un lugar de tratamiento en su vecindario.

#### ***Únase a La Alianza Libre de la Droga Meth***

Llame al 388-4711 para involucrarse y reclamar nuestra comunidad de la droga Meth.

#### ***Únase a "Vigilancia de Vecindario"***

Llame al 791-4450 y hable a la unidad de prevención de crimen del departamento de policía de Tucson para obtener el número de teléfono del director de Vigilancia de Vecindario.



## La Droga Meth - Es Nuestro Problema.

**METH**  
*Free*  
**Alliance**  
Meth Stops with Us!



## Appendix I

### Sample English Anti-Meth Flyers

# Want to be Meth-Free?

**If you, someone you love, or a friend is doing Meth, consider this:**

- Meth addiction can happen to anyone.
- Meth abuse affects everyone in our community; friends, family, children, not just users.
- Treatment works for addicts who are given sufficient time to detox and enter a treatment program.
- Some rehab services are free. Some provide services on a sliding scale based on your income.



Call 622-6000 to get help now. Our helpline is answered by professional staff who understand what you're going through. They'll listen to your questions and concerns, and provide you with referrals to area treatment providers.

**Don't let Meth ruin your life and the lives of others.**

## Meth-It's Our Problem

**METH**  
*Free*  
**Alliance**  
Meth Abuse with Us



## Appendix I

### Sample Spanish Anti-Meth Flyers

# ¿Quiere ser Libre de la Droga Meth?

**Si usted, alguien que usted ama, o un amigo esta usando la droga Meth, considere esto:**

- La adicción a la droga Meth le puede pasar a cualquiera.
- El abuso a la droga Meth afecta a todo el mundo en nuestra comunidad; amigos, familia, niños, no solo a los usuarios.
- El tratamiento funciona para adictos que se les da tiempo suficiente para detoxificarse y entrar en un programa de tratamiento.
- Algunos servicios de la rehabilitación son gratis. Algunos poseen servicios variados pasados según su situación económica.



Llame al 622-6000 para obtener ayuda ahora. Nuestra línea es contestada por profesionales que entienden por lo que usted esta pasando. Le escucharán sus preguntas y preocupaciones, y les proveerán referencias a proveedores en las áreas.

**No permita que la droga Meth arruine su vida y la vida de otros.**

**La droga Meth – Es Nuestro Problema.**



## Appendix J

### Spectrum of Community Engagement\*

Level of Engagement	Goal of Engagement	Intervention Committee's Promise to the Neighborhood
<b>Inform</b>	To provide the affected neighborhood with balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problems, alternatives and solutions	We will keep you informed
<b>Consult</b>	To obtain neighborhood feedback on analyses, alternatives and decisions	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how neighborhood input influenced the decision
<b>Involve</b>	To work directly with the neighborhood throughout the process to ensure that issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the processes developed and provide feedback on how neighborhood input influenced the decision
<b>Collaborate</b>	To partner with the neighborhood in each aspect of the Neighborhood Intervention Project's decisions	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decision to the maximum extent possible
<b>Empower</b>	To place final decision making in the hands of the neighborhood	We will implement what you decide

\* Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)



## Appendix K

### Sample Budget

#### Sample Neighborhood Intervention Plan Budget – Oak Flower/Dodge Flower Neighborhoods

Tasks	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Total
		Phase 1			Phase 2			Phase 3			Phase 4		
Funding for Neighborhood Liaison	\$25,000												\$25,000
Food & Misc Supplies for Kick-off Event				\$5,000									\$5,000
5,000 2-color flyers for Kick-off Event				\$2,000									\$2,000
Funding for Swipes Technology*	\$5,000												\$5,000
– Supplies													
– Training Neighborhood Members													
– Data collection and recording													
5,000 flyers with drug treatment info													
– printing					\$2,000								\$2,000
– plastic doorhangers					\$250								\$250
Neighborhood Projects													\$750
		\$250	\$250	\$250									
End of project celebration										\$500			\$500
Total	\$30,250	\$250	\$250	\$7,000	\$2,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$40,500

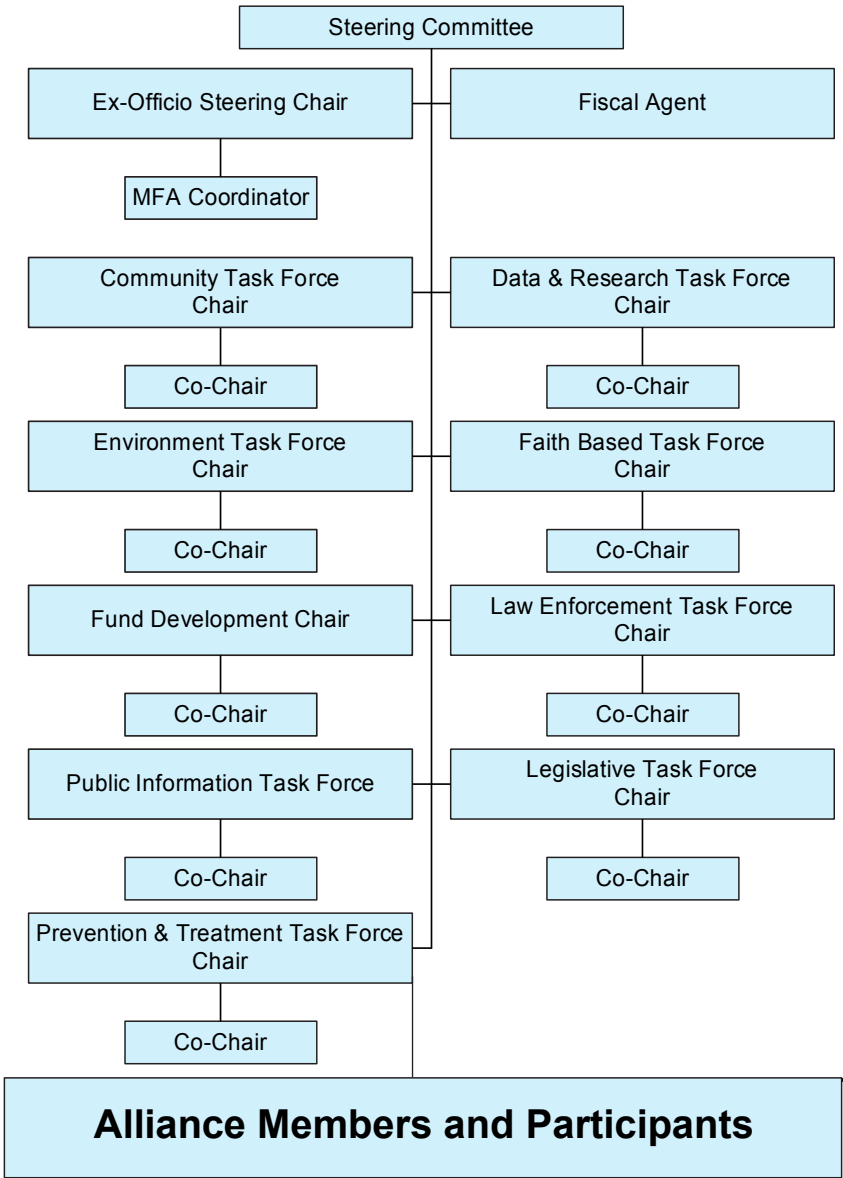
Approach businesses/organizations to underwrite cost

Neighborhood Association Budget

\* Swipes Technology may or may not be used in your neighborhood depending upon goals and objectives you establish

## Appendix L

### Meth Free Alliance Organizational Structure



## Appendix M

### Arizona Crime Free Lease Addendum

In consideration for the execution or renewal of a lease of the dwelling unit identified in the lease, Manager or Owner and Resident agree as follows:

Resident, any member(s) of the resident's household, a guest or any other person affiliated with the resident, at or near the resident premises:

1. Shall not engage in criminal activity, including drug-related criminal activity, on or near the said premises. "Drug related criminal activity" means the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, use, or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use an illegal or controlled substance (as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substance Act [21 U.S.C. 802]).
2. Shall not engage in any act intended to facilitate criminal activity.
3. Will not permit the dwelling unit to be used for, or to facilitate criminal activity.
4. Shall not engage in the unlawful manufacturing, selling, using, storing, keeping or giving of an illegal or controlled substance as defined in A.R.S. 13-3451, at any locations, whether on or near the dwelling unit premises.
5. Shall not engage in any illegal activity, including, but not limited to prostitution as defined in A.R.S. 133211, criminal street gang activity as defined in A.R.S. 13-105 and A.R.S. 13-2308, threatening or intimidating as prohibited in A.R.S. 13-1202, assault as prohibited in A.R.S. 13-1203, including but not limited to the unlawful discharge of a weapon, on or near the dwelling unit premises, or any breach of the lease agreement that otherwise jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of the landlord, his agent, or other tenant, or involving imminent or actual serious property damage, as defined in A.R.S. 33-1368.
6. VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE PROVISIONS SHALL BE A MATERIAL AND IRREPARABLE VIOLATION OF THE LEASE AND GOOD CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF TENANCY. A single violation of any of the provisions of this added addendum shall be deemed a serious violation, and a material and irreparable non-compliance. It is understood that a single violation shall be good cause for immediate termination of the lease under A.R.S. 33-1377, as provided in A.R.S. 33-1368. Unless otherwise provided by law, proof of violation shall not require a criminal conviction, but shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.
7. In case of conflict between the provisions of this addendum and any other provisions of the lease, the provisions of this addendum shall govern.
8. This LEASE ADDENDUM is incorporated into the lease executed or renewed this day between Manager or Owner and Resident.

Resident Signaturer / Date \_\_\_\_\_

Resident Signaturer / Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Property Manager Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Trespass Clause

The management reserves the right to prevent access to this property and to remove any persons, other than tenants, including but not limited to; guests, visitors and random persons deemed objectionable. Objectionable persons include, but are not limited to:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

Any person who has been denied residency at this property for reasons of criminal history background, prior evictions unrelated to non-payment of rent, or similar reasons having to do with unacceptable conduct.

Any person who would not qualify to be a resident at this property for reasons other than an inability to pay rent.

Any person who has been evicted from this property for reasons other than non-payment of rent. Any person who commits criminal activity, causes a disruptive problem or violates the community rules for the property.

Any person who has committed criminal activity, has caused a disruptive problem, or violated the rules at this property in the past.

Any known gang members or known gang associates.

It is the tenant's responsibility to make sure all guests are aware of and comply with all the Community rules. If a tenant has a guest that is in violation of this clause, the guest will be asked to leave the property and to not return again. The tenant(s) will also be served with the appropriate violation notice. Continual violations of this or any other lease clause subject the tenant(s) to eviction.

Resident Signaturer / Date \_\_\_\_\_

Resident Signaturer / Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner / Property Manager Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name / Address of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix N

### List of Selection Criteria with Description of Importance and Application

#### A. Success Measures and Criteria

- **Census Data** (including, but not limited to single parent homes, income levels, race demographics, age demographics, number of children living in area, etc.)
  - Needed to establish a point of reference to see if initiatives have a positive or negative effect on the data sets, as well as to determine what specific resources might be needed when addressing a particular neighborhood.
  - Results should show a positive impact on the neighborhood, primarily determined by crime statistics, without significantly affecting the basic demographics of the people living there.
- **Crime Rate(s)** (including, but not limited to, homicide, robbery, burglary, vehicle theft, narcotics, aggravated assault, fraud, suspicious activity, shoplifting, larceny from vehicle, other larcenies, etc.)
  - Needed to determine the baseline or initial crime statistics for purposes of later comparison.
  - Results should show the success level of the project by turning to the key indicators, namely crime statistics, of meth-related problems. The expectation is that meth-related crimes will significantly decrease as a result of the initiatives brought forth.
- **Number of Offenders**
  - Needed to determine the baseline or initial number of meth-related criminal offenders residing or operating within the project area.
  - Results should show a largely positive impact in the area by reducing the number of criminal offenders living or “hanging out” in the neighborhood. Attempts should also be made to determine if these individuals are being displaced to other neighborhoods.
- **Department of Economic Security Data** (including, but not limited to, unemployment numbers/rates, information relating to child removal from residences/neighborhoods – CPS, etc.)
  - Needed to establish a point of reference to determine if initiatives have a positive or negative effect on the data sets, as well as to determine what specific resources might be needed when addressing a particular neighborhood.
  - Results should show positive impacts by lowering the number of individuals receiving unemployment compensation, the number of children being removed from their families, and others.
- **Data Related to Emergency Room Admissions (Drug-Related) – by Zip Code**
  - Needed to determine what affect efforts might have on the number of drug-related emergency room admissions.
  - Results should show a positive correlation between neighborhood activities and a decrease in the number of drug-related emergency room admissions.
- **Data Related to Ambulance Transports of Drug Users**
  - Needed to determine the baseline or initial number of meth-related (or drug-related) ambulance transports occurring within the neighborhood project area.
  - Results should show a noticeable decrease in the number of meth-related (or drug-related) ambulance transports.

- **Quality of Life Survey**
  - Needed to gauge the initial sentiments of community residents, business owners, and others with regards to their quality of life before the implementation of the initiatives involved with the project.
  - Results should show a positive report from the residents, business owners, and others indicating that their quality of life improved substantially as a result of neighborhood efforts.
- **City or County Economic Data** (including, but not limited to, sales tax receipts and number of business licenses)
  - Needed to establish a baseline data set for later comparison to determine if the project has a positive or negative effect on specific economic data.
  - Results should show if initiatives had a positive effect by increasing economic indicators such as consumer spending and the number of new business licenses granted for businesses located within the neighborhood.
- **Pharmacy Cash Sales**
  - Needed to determine what level of activity associated with pharmacy cash sales initially exists and who (i.e. behavioral health clients) is acquiring pharmaceuticals through cash transactions.
  - Results should show if a higher number of pharmacy cash sales has a definitive correlation to meth use and activity in a particular area.
- **City/County Zone Restrictions**
  - Needed to determine if a significant number of individuals have had their access restricted in certain areas of the neighborhood
  - Results should show whether utilizing this resource at the city level/county level is advantageous and improves the quality of life in the area.
- **Abatement Data**
  - Needed to determine if a large number of existing abatement-related issues are present in the neighborhood and if additional resources are needed
  - Results should identify any needed resources, educate citizens and create an established system of attending to abatement issues that will last indefinitely.
- **Number of People on Probation**
  - Needed to establish a baseline number of people within the neighborhood who currently have probation status for later comparison.
  - Results should lead to a decrease in the number of persons on probation living or being active in the neighborhood as well as indicate a possible correlation with crime rates.
- **Number of Behavioral Health Clients**
  - Needed to establish a baseline number of individuals within the neighborhood who are currently involved in a behavioral health program. A significant percentage of behavioral health clients also have substance abuse issues.
  - Results should show whether your efforts had an affect on the behavioral health clients within the neighborhood as well as to determine if the percentage of those people also having substance abuse issues decreased.

- **Rental Properties by Townships**

- Needed to establish a baseline number of residential properties within your neighborhood and whether they are owner-occupied or rental units. Additional resources relating to this issue can also be taken into consideration.
- Results should identify any needed resources, educate the citizens as to how to access those resources, and identify any legislative or environmental actions that might need to be taken to better improve the community as a whole.

## **B. Success Measures/Criteria and Helpful Assets**

- **School Data** (including, but not limited to, attendance rates, drop out rates, enrollment and graduation/end of year data, nurse's office visits, truancy, etc.)
  - Needed to establish a data set relating to juvenile tendencies and known statistical information for later comparison in determining if efforts have a positive or negative effect on statistics.
  - Results should show a positive result, namely, a decrease in juvenile tendencies that are known to be indicators of problems at home, juvenile susceptibility or activity in criminal arenas, and eventual adult crime rates.

## **C. Helpful Assets**

- **Impacted Employers**
  - Needed to establish a list of area employers that may be affected by meth due to an employee (or set of employees) using meth; identify necessary resources to assist with eradicating meth from the business.
  - Results should show a substantial decrease in the numbers of businesses that have been experiencing the detrimental effects of employees that use meth and to educate them about available resources to assist with any future problems.
- **Civic Center**
  - Needed so that at least one “central” meeting spot is identified and useable for neighborhood functions or as an information gathering point.
  - Results should provide the community with an established location where residents, business owners, and others can meet to work together to sustain the initiatives of the program indefinitely.
- **Faith Institutions**
  - Needed to establish a strong base of support comprised of individuals who are highly invested in contributing to the betterment of the neighborhood.
  - Results should provide the community with a well-developed resource to turn to when needs arise on a variety of levels.
- **Strong Neighborhood Association(s)**
  - Needed to ensure a “community buy-in” to the project and willingness to participate.
  - Results should achieve a significantly greater sustainability on the part of the neighborhood due to the fact that those living in the neighborhood will have a vested interest in maintaining the program indefinitely.

## Appendix O

### Many For Action: A Neighborhood Study to Prevent, Intervene on and Treat Methamphetamine Related Problems

The Neighborhood Intervention Project is based upon many theories of change which have been scientifically proven and can be woven together strategically to achieve the following goals:

1. To activate a community-based response to stop methamphetamine abuse, manufacturing and related criminal activities in your neighborhood.
2. To implement and sustain a coordinated community response across the faith-based, law enforcement, and prevention/treatment fields to prevent, intervene and treat methamphetamine and related problems.

Scientific findings have also shown that a number of strategies could be useful in your neighborhood mobilization for prevention and early intervention, such as:

- a. Promoting and using simple interventions related to positive child development.
- b. Implementing prevention-intervention activities in schools like the Good Behavior Game, a classroom management strategy designed to improve aggressive/disruptive classroom behavior and prevent later criminality by measurably reducing ADHD, oppositional defiance, conduct disorders and early use of tobacco and/or alcohol. These activities are powerful strategies for reducing use of illegal drugs or juvenile justice involvement by as much as 50% [1, 2-6] .
- c. Promoting strategies among children, youth or adults with genetic tendencies for drug use (e.g., sensation seekers who are more susceptible to negative peer pressure) that are both preventative and that help reduce current drug use [7-13]. This type of promotion can happen via low-cost interventions that also enhance academic success in schools [14-16], in community settings such as churches or youth venues [17], or in therapeutic situations [13].
- d. *Using low-cost procedures to reduce co-existing conditions associated with methamphetamine addiction.* A variety of bad behaviors and conditions happen together with methamphetamine addiction: antisocial behavior, violence, borderline personality disorders, bipolar disorder, cardiovascular crises, and more. Overwhelming, high-quality academic studies now show that these symptoms, disorders and co-occurring difficulties can be successfully reduced by taking daily dietary supplements such as Omega 3 fish oil capsules [18-20, 21] that work as mood stabilizers [22].
- e. *Using a community reinforcement and family training model to get people into treatment and stay clean.* Extensive scientific trials show that a community reinforcement and family training approach to aid in recovery are powerful ways to get people into and engaged in treatment [13, 23-29]. These practices can be learned by community members, including employers, significant others, parents, and probation or parole officers with/or without drug courts.



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## Appendix P

### Sample Press Release for Kick-off Event



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Anti-Meth Neighborhood Event a Prelude to Revitalization

**(Tucson, May 24, 2006)** – Two neighborhoods in central Tucson have volunteered to participate in a unique community-based project addressing the prevention, intervention and treatment of methamphetamine use and addiction.

The Oak Flower and Dodge/Flower neighborhoods volunteered to work with the Meth Free Alliance to achieve measurable improvements within their respective neighborhoods.

The Tucson Neighbors Building Community, or TNBC, is a coalition of neighborhood residents working together to teach community members about meth and its negative impacts using a variety of tools and skills.

"There is no greater tool in law enforcement's arsenal than neighbors working to ensure safety in their neighborhoods," said Captain David Neri of the Tucson Metropolitan Counter Narcotics Alliance.

The Meth Free Alliance fully supports the project through volunteers and steering committee members who bring expertise and linkages to community resources in the law enforcement, public relations, medical, academic, legislative, treatment, faith-based and environmental fields.

"This project is a tremendous opportunity for two neighborhoods to combine resources with the Meth Free Alliance to eradicate this terrible drug from their community. It's one important step forward, among many being made to address the problem at a city-wide and regional level," said Mayor Bob Walkup.

TNBC will kick off the initial phase of the project with "Meth-Get Out of Dodge!", a family-friendly block party featuring free food, refreshments and entertainment on Saturday, June 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Flower Street east of Alvernon Way between North La Verne/Sycamore and Alvernon.

Beth Walkup, City of Tucson Council Member Karin Uhlich and other community leaders will speak about meth's impact on children, health, crime rates and the environment and why the TNBC project is critically important to the Tucson region.

"The creation of TNBC has brought a renewed sense of hope to our neighborhood, said Abby Wine, president of the Oak Flower Neighborhood Association.

"We welcome the Meth Free Alliance pilot project in our neighborhood as an opportunity to mobilize our neighbors, rental property owners and local businesses to work together in eradicating meth and associated crimes from our community," said Barbara Lehmann, president of the Dodge/Flower Neighborhood Association.

Information booths will provide resources for helping friends or family members addicted to meth, and Tucson Police Department will have its Crime Prevention Hummer, lab truck and Drug Endangered Children RV on-site. A jumping castle and face painting will be available for children and a raffle will be held with prizes donated by area merchants. For more information about the event, contact Claire Richardson at XXX-XXXX.



## Appendix Q

### Sample Meeting Minutes



### Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Meth Free Alliance Neighborhood and Public Information Task Forces

Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Community Room, Notting Hill Apartments, 2660 North Alvernon Way, Tucson

Present: Audrey Peters, Robin Khasse, Josué Gomez, Claire Richardson, George Pettit, Marge Duncam, Abby Wine, Barbara Lehmann, Blanche White, Horace Styer, Rick Heath, Claire Richardson, Tania Capin

Chairs: Tania Capin – Public Information Task Force  
Jim Kaucher – Neighborhood Task Force

Guests: Marie Light, MFA Environmental Task Force Chair  
Julian & Edmund, Victory Outreach Church

1. The minutes of the May 31, 2006 meeting were approved by consensus.
2. The Chair of the Public Information Task Force facilitated the meeting in the absence of the Community Task Force Chair.
3. The Task Forces' meeting featured presentations by Julian and Edmund from the Victory Outreach Church and Marie Light's swipe project. The main focus of the meeting was a continuation of the discussion of how neighborhoods could take action to promote responsible rental practices by landlords.
4. Julian and Edmund told the group about the faith-based programs at their church. They would like to set up similar programs in the two neighborhoods. Victory Outreach does placements for people with addictions and works to encourage people to overcome their addictions. Edmund is a former meth addict who works with Julian to do one-on-one counseling with addicts. The church also has an urban training center for youth. It was suggested that they provide Blanche with some information about their services to promote in the newsletter being mailed out next week, and a meeting with the Faith-Based task force was also proposed.
5. Tania asked the group if anyone was interested in becoming a co-chair to assist Jim with his workload and chair meetings in his absence. It was suggested that Elizabeth Ramey might be interested in assisting Jim (she wasn't able to attend the 6/29 meeting).
6. The group then began discussions about devising criteria for landlords. Barbara recommended that instead of reinventing the wheel, the criteria should work hand-in-hand with TPD's Crime-Free Workshops. Josué presented Notting Hill's version of a Crime Free Lease Addendum to show the group specific verbiage pertaining to the manufacturing of narcotics on the premises and the immediate repercussions to tenants. 280 letters to landlords were mailed out and one response was received from a landlord willing to join TNBC. The group decided it would be best to contact Brad Holland and have him come to the next meeting to help devise a script for follow-up phone calls to the landlords. It was acknowledged that Brad could coach the group in what and what not to say to the landlords.

- a. The suggestion was made to find out dates for the next few Crime Free Workshops and inform the landlords that this resource is available to them at no cost. A discussion ensued about making attendance at the classes mandatory for landlords who decide to obtain real estate licenses.
  - b. Tania asked which City of Tucson office was responsible for sending out rental property questionnaires to landlords annually and thought there may be extra questions that could be asked of landlords pertaining to their rental properties that would require them to disclose if their property had ever had a meth lab on-site. Marie Light mentioned that a cross-check could be done at [www.btr.state.az.us](http://www.btr.state.az.us), a website that lists addresses of properties needing remediation.
  - c. George Pettit mentioned that the Assessor's office is the entity that does the mailing to rental property owners.
  - d. Abby suggested that a file be started with the two neighborhood associations to keep track of area meth labs using info gleaned from the btr web site. George recommended that TNBC bring legislators together after doing the research and ask what each would do to hold the landlords accountable for remediation.
7. Marie talked to the group about the swipe sampling project and asked everyone to identify 50 locations considered "hot spots" on two aerial maps provided by TPD. Red denoted high priority locations that were a public phone, lamp post or other area accessible to the public. Yellow stood for high priority locations on private property requiring owner permission to swipe.

**The Task Force scheduled its next meeting TENTATIVELY for Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Room of the Notting Hill Apartments, 2660 North Alvernon Way pending Jim Kaucher's availability.**

– Tania Capin, Chairman of the Public Information Task Force



Meth-Free Alliance Neighborhood Task Force  
Minutes of the June 28, 2006 meeting  
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## Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following individuals who helped make the Oak Flower & Dodge Flower Neighborhood Intervention Project a success. Your tireless support, camaraderie and expertise embodied the true spirit of partnering and community collaboration:

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Sharon Bronson, Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 3  
Officer Maria Cabrera, Tucson Police Department  
Deborah Carey, Teen Challenge  
Ray Carroll, Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 4  
Tina Castañeda, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona  
Leslie Clark, Lark Training & Consulting  
Lisa Contreras  
Anthony Coulson, Drug Enforcement Administration, Tucson Sector  
Dr. Leonard Ditmanson, Arizona Medical Association  
Hon. Dan Eckstrom, Pima County Board of Supervisors (Retired)  
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Council Member Karen Uhlich, Ward 3, Tucson  
Judge Joan Wagener, Pima County Juvenile Court  
Mayor Bob Walkup, Tucson  
Beth Walkup  
June Webb-Vignery, Ph.D., Metropolitan Education Commission, Tucson  
Blanche White

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## Appendices

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## Tell us what you think

We'd like to hear from you. Was this guide helpful in planning your neighborhood intervention project efforts? What did you especially like? What would you recommend we change? Is there any information you feel should have been included but wasn't?

Email us at: [turningthecorner@gmail.com](mailto:turningthecorner@gmail.com)

Write to us at: Meth Free Alliance, 82 S. Stone Avenue Tucson, AZ 85701

Call us at: (520) 792-3293



